

CAT GOSSIP. August 10th. 1927

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

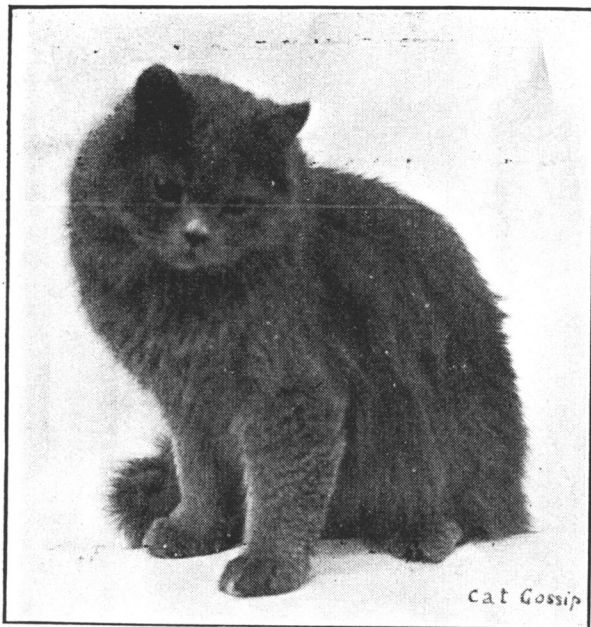
Phone: Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 36

AUGUST 10th, 1927

Price 3d., post free



Mrs. Stevens' Young Blue Stud,
MERLIN O' MENDIP.

Our portrait this week is of Mrs. Stevens' young blue stud, Merlin o' Mendip, taken at the age of twelve months, and when, naturally, not yet in full coat. He is a grandson of Milord o' Mendip, and son of Eyes of Allington. He first made his bow as a member of the first prize litter at the Newbury C.C. Show last year, and won first in his classes at the M.C.C. and S.C.C.C., only times shown.

Gossip of the Week.

WE REGRET that inadvertently the name of our highly-valued coadjutor, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, was omitted from the list of guarantors to whom we tendered our thanks last week.

Our revered brother of the pen, "Beachcomber," of the "Daily Express," we think surpasses himself in the extraordinary confession of faith he publishes in that paper. We are in sackcloth and ashes for

having suggested he had a Katzenjammer. Perish the thought! for he writes:—"Never get embroiled in a controversy about cats! . . . I attribute the fact that I detest cats almost entirely to my abstention from strong drink and my vegetarian diet. Milk is a man's diet, and no real man can contemplate a decadent cat lapping this delicious beverage from a saucer without expressing feelings of the most lively hatred and jealousy. Everyone knows that stray cats always make for a public-house—(how does Beachcomber know this if not from personal observation?—Ed.)—would they think of going to a dairy or a water-cart depot? . . . Let us leave cats to the noisy brawlers and loud-voiced ale-wallopers of the world, **who alone appreciate them and are good to them.**" It's very funny, this obsession of Beachcomber's? Unless he writes "tongue in cheek," we suggest his visiting a big cat show to study the "ale-walloping" Cat l'ancy on its native heath; it should be a valuable journalistic experience.

Mr. G. TOMES writes in the "Daily Mail":—"May I, as a naturalist, suggest that the Manx cat's abnormal length of hind leg and almost total lack of tail might possibly show a closer affinity to the lynx than to other varieties of the domestic cat. The lynx possesses the same peculiarities of structure, and in prehistoric times inhabited the British Isles." These remarks are correct. It is to be observed that these tailless strains of cats obtain principally in parts where the lynx does not exist. It is true that the Malay cat inhabits a part of the world where there is a short-tailed wild feline; the Flat-headed Cat (*f. planiceps*), which is, however, so aberrant that it is not likely to have had any part in the production of the domestic race. Then, again, as far as is known, the lynxes do not cross with felis; although the Jungle Cat or Chaus Cat, which in some ways approaches the lynxine group, will do so. It is rather singular that a previous occupant of the house we now live in possessed one of these cross-bred cats brought from India, and a local mason never tires of relating how this cat met him on the stairs and "went for" his leg. We should feel inclined to regard the existing similarities between Manx and Lynx as a case of independent development along similar lines, but not as proof of any nearer relation than the ordinary one existing between felis and Lynceus.

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WE REGRET to record the death of the eminent traveller, Sir Harry Johnston, who, amongst other work, devoted some thought to feline origins, and believed that several wild races contributed towards the domestic cats of India. It will be remembered that he discovered a species of that remarkable animal, the Okapi, named after him. To discover a new species or sub-species and have it named after one (a good fortune which has twice befallen us) is one of the rare "plums" in a naturalist's lot.

THE regrettable death of Hillingdon Negroid, from ptomaine poisoning, emphasises our warning to let a cat fast rather than give it any tainted food. In this case it is not known how the cat obtained the poison, and Mrs. McClure, unhappily, could not find the V.S. in time to be of help.

WE REGRET to learn that Mrs. de Lisle Mullens is very ill.

WE DRAW attention to Mrs. Nathan's remarkable offer of kittens. It looks as if Mrs. Nathan can say to buyers "Let 'em all come," for she can meet all requirements. See also Miss Fisher's, Miss Brunton's, and Mrs. Ellaby's advertisements.

MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER is having a little holiday, which is why there is no L.L. this week. An old and respected fancier of the variety chats on Silver Tabbies instead.

MADRESFIELD SHOW.

This now popular fixture drew a larger entry of cats and kittens this year than ever before, and the greatest credit reflects on the popular Hon. Sec., Miss Vera George, to whose entirely unaided efforts this success is due.

Perhaps the chief features were the fine class of Blue Persian male adults, the large number of exquisite Chinchilla kittens, and the excellent quality generally of all the kittens, which must have given the judge, Mr. Ambrose, many difficult moments.

Amongst fanciers from a distance we noticed Captain St. Barbe, Miss Johnson, Miss Langhorne, Miss Langston, Mrs. Newton, Miss Peake, Mrs. F. H. Stevens, Mrs. McWatt, and Miss K. Yorke.

SPECIALS.

Best Cat in Show—Northway Shelmerdine.

Best Kitten in Show—Langherne Day Dream.

ADULTS.

Class 1.—**Long Hair Blue Male**—1, Nicholls—Cupid of Callow; 2, Stevens—Merlin o' Mendip; 3, Fair—Northway Billy Bunch; r, Guy—Call Boy of Mayfield.

Class 2.—**Long Hair Blue Female**—1, Fair—Northway Shelmerdine; 2, George—Mistress Love; 3, George—Blue Hepatica; r, Wellings—Betty.

Class 3.—**Long Hair Blue, either sex.** Owner never to have won a prize at any Championship Show—1, Nicholls—Cupid of Callow; 2, Wellings—Betty; 3, Burgess—Knighton Mimi.

Class 4.—**Chinchilla, either sex**—1, Drake—Peter of Aldwych; 2, Langston—Recompense of Allington.

Class 5.—**Long Hair, either sex, any other colour**—1, Fair—Ch. Meg of Bredon; 2, Guy—White Chief of Mayfield.

Class 6.—**Short Hair, either sex, including Siamese**—1, Walker—Lady Jane; 2, Guy—Rising Sun of Mayfield; 3, Pritchard and Norrie—Simperaval; r, Taylor—Ch. Brown Star.

Class 7.—**Breeders, any variety, either sex**—1, Fair—Northway Shelmerdine; 2, Drake—Peter of Aldwych; 3, Fair—Northway Billy Bunch.

Class 8.—**Novice, any variety, either sex**—1, Fair—Northway Shelmerdine; 2, Drake—Peter of Aldwych; 3, Walker—Lady Jane; r, Stevens—Merlin o' Mendip.

Class 9.—**Brace, any variety, either sex**—1, Fair—Northway Ting-a-Ling and Northway Shelmerdine; 2, George—Mistress Love and Blue Hepatica; 3, Guy—Call Boy of Mayfield and White Chief of Mayfield.

Class 10.—**Neuters, adults or kittens, any variety**—1, Chichester—Litaman; 2, Parfitt—Sir Pippity Witchett; 3, Aubrey—Langherne Ivan; r, Pritchard and Norrie—King Aby (Abyssinian).

KITTENS.

Class 11.—**Long Hair Blue, male**—1, Yeend—Ray of Bredon; 2, St. Barbe—Baloo; 3, George—Bunkered; r, George—Berwick.

Class 12.—**Long Hair Blue, female**—1, Yeend—Pixie of Bredon; 2, St. Barbe—Thalia; 3, Langston—Jennifer of Allington; r, Langston—Bobbinette of Allington.

Class 13.—**Long Hair Blue, either sex.** Owner never to have won a prize at any Championship Show—1, Smith; 2, Malpass; 3, Spencer; r, Spencer.

Class 14.—**Chinchilla, male**—1, Grant and Trefusis—Peter; 2, Langston—Dick of Allington; 3, Drake—Victor of Aldwych; r, Langston—Jacquino of Allington.

Class 15.—**Chinchilla, female**—1, Aubrey—Langherne Day Dream; 2, Aubrey; 3, Newton.

Class 15a.—**Cream, either sex**—1, Yeend—Mab of Bredon; 2, Yeend—Monty of Bredon; 3, Yeend; r, MacWatt—Gem of Watt.

Class 16.—**Any other variety Long Hair**—1, MacWatt—Wop of Watt (Tortie); 2, Yeend (Tortie); 3, Langhorne—Bella Donna o' the Combe (Blue Cream).

Class 17.—**Any Variety Short Hair, including Siamese**—1, Chichester; 2, George—Cheeky Boy; 3, Chichester.

Class 18.—**Breeders, any variety**—1, Aubrey; 2 and 3, Yeend; r, George.

Class 19.—**Pairs, any variety**—1, Aubrey—Chinchillas; 2, Yeend—Greens; 3, George—Blues; r, St. Barbe—Blues.

Class 20.—**Litter, any variety**—1, Langston; 2, Johnston; 3, Burgess; r, Malpass.

S. E. YEEND.

A Gossip about Long-haired Silver Tabbies.

By Miss H. M. ROBERTS (Frampton Cotterell).

It is 14 years since I bought my first silver tabby Persian kitten from Miss Clarke, of Exeter. It was Lady May, a beautiful little daughter of that beautiful Queen, Champion Devon Dimpsey, by Ch. Orient Ali Baba.

She won me many prizes, besides being the mother of prize-winners. She is now a very old lady, but still well and happy, if a little stiff. She has had no kittens for years now. Sir Marnie, who won two championships, but died before completing them, was one of her kittens.

At that time Lord of the Manor, Ch. Eastbury Tiger Boy, Ch. Orient Ali Baba, and Ch. Monarch of the North were all advancing in years, and did not long survive.

I was fortunate in getting Ch. Felix of Frampton from Mrs. Hopwood, and his two sons, Flinders of Frampton (who died after his first show) and Ch. Florizel of Frampton, who, I believe, still flourishes, keeping his breed going, otherwise I really think it would be extinct.

At that time the difficulty was to find a Silver Tabby stud for an out-cross, but for some time now the queens have been the difficulty, as they are very scarce, and not at all free breeders, and often inferior to the males, so all sorts of crosses are being tried with varying success.

Black seems to give the best results in the end, but one must wait for the second generation, and even then not mind an occasional blackie in a litter of Silver Tabbies. But I dislike the yellow or even orange eyes one sometimes gets with this cross, but some people consider them quite permissible.

To cross back to a Chinchilla is the most obvious remedy, but the result is not very satisfactory to the tabby marking. So it will be seen that difficulties abound, calling for patience and perseverance, but these charming and lovable cats are, I think, well worth it all.

A few years ago Ch. Buffola of Silverleigh made his appearance, and has done a great deal for this breed. Having been found as a stray, it has been impossible to discover his origin, but I always think he was probably bred from a daughter of my Lady May, by Lord of the Manor, that I sold in Bristol (where Buffola was found), and I never knew what became of her, but I know she had kittens more than once.

Buffola must have good Silver Tabby breeding to judge by his offspring, and I always look on him with a grandmotherly (or great-grandmotherly) eye! Three of my young queens are his daughters, and one his granddaughter.

My stud cats are, at present, Orlando and Desmond of Frampton, both sons of my Boris of Frampton, that I lost so sadly last year. Through him and Ch. Florizel, his sire, they trace their descent through



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A CHEAP POPULAR CAT BOOK.

The rather quaint work, "Domestic and Fancy Cats," written a good many years ago by John Jennings, has been revised and brought up-to-date, and at its low figure should commend itself to all, especially the beginner. It contains seventeen portraits of celebrated cats. The "natural history" part is better written than is usual in non-scientific works. In most breeds the standards are given; as regards Manx, it is erroneously stated that "no standard of points has been drawn up"; also that tortoiseshells are rare, which is rather an exaggeration. We do not greatly admire the Manx chapter. Nor can we by any means agree that the Abyssinian cat is "sly or hungry looking, not sweet in expression."

The list of Cat Clubs is defective. The housing chapter is good, and the chapter on diseases gives quite sufficient for the ordinary fancier without terrifying him or her with a host of "necessary" medicaments or encouraging him to undertake too much. The writer deplors that no one takes up breeding the beautiful spotted cat.

"Domestic and Fancy Cats" (fifth edition), published by "The Bazaar," price 1s. 6d. net.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—In the "Evening Standard" of April 23rd there was the curious announcement that follows, which I have puzzled over, and wonder if you can throw any light on. "After the decree raising the pay of French Army cats comes a decision that all General Staff officers must have an elementary knowledge of typewriters," etc. What are these "French Army cats"? Are there any attached officially to our Army? I have heard of the "Cat that guarded the King's barn" in the far-off days when the King owned "a barn," but it is odd to think of a twentieth century Army needing our little auxiliary!

Yours, etc.,

F. E. LEANING.

BIRTHS.

July 28th.—Mrs. de Lisle Mullen's Y'ellati, 7 kittens to Mrs. Hindley's Simzo (Siamese).

July 12th.—Mrs. Brunton's Cornflower of Dunesk, 3 lovely kittens by Barry Prince Blue.

A learned writer in our Belgian contemporary, writing of "monsters" and "freaks" in the animal world, observes that: "Certain species appear to have a predisposition towards the production of certain kinds of abnormalities which may be explained

by their normal organisation," and instances that the pig, allied to the elephant and tapir, is of all species most liable to produce cyclocephalic "freaks," showing a cutaneous appendage in the form of a trunk. This rule, however, is not absolute, for he continues: "Thus we can understand what the cat, which has large litters, provides us often, perhaps more often than any other species, examples of double freaks (two joined together). . . . But, on the other hand, the bovine species, which usually have one young at a time, produce nearly as many 'doubles' as the cat, and more than the dog."

Geoffrey St. Hilaire records seven cases in the cat in which there is but one eye, or both eyes are joined in one organ situated in the frontal medium line of the head, as against fourteen such cases in the dog and fifty in the pig. The most common form of freak in the cat is undoubtedly the presence of double paws, of which several specimens have been seen at cat shows of late years. This polydactyle character is inherited with considerable obstinacy. The well-known author, Miss Oldfield-Howey, possesses a strain of polydactyle cats, one of which our readers saw at Croydon a couple of years ago. We remember many years ago seeing in the flesh a baby kitten with two perfect heads; it died directly after birth, and was preserved in spirits; we do not know where it is now.

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by Ch. Minley Surprise ex Swinton Sprite (mated to Ch. Hercules of Mayfield).

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by Rigside Dandy ex Barry Fluffy (mated to John of Bedale).

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by Dazzler of Henley ex Maroo.

Red. Ch. PARKSIDE RAGGEDY ANN,

by Parkside Gay Lad ex Patsy (mated to Ch. Shere Khan of the Combe).

Tortoiseshells. PARKSIDE MARGARET,

by Parkside Gay Lad ex Patsy (mated to Parkside Gay Lad).

PARKSIDE TRICOLOR,

by Lucky Dream ex Primula (mated to Parkside Little Slam).

Chinchilla. GENTLE CALM,

by Caiville ex Mimetta (mated to Ch. Langherne Felix).

Smoke. PARKSIDE HAVANA ASH,

by Ch. Goblin of Barley Hill ex Poudre of the Cottage (mated to Ch. Tarzan of the Cottage).

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Cat Club meetings in America seem to be conducted on more frivolous lines than with us. For instance, the official report of the Beresford C.C., of Chicago, relates how "the club poet gave a series of comical complements having to do with the members, the chorus of which, after each two lines, was 'Oh do do O do,' which she besought them to sing." It does sound exciting! A New Orleans C.C. plans a function at which "cake and vanity sets, beads and groceries, and even a permanent wave, will be raffled for." Rummage sales, "dark horses," and "blind packages" are frequently utilised to bring funds to the club exchequers.

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**.

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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.

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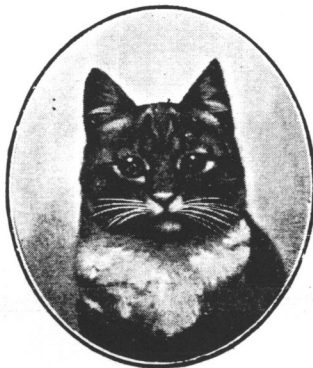
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