

CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 2

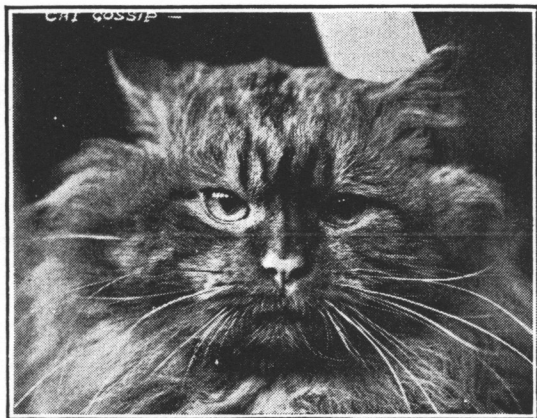
Phone: Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 37

AUGUST 17th. 1927

Price 3d., post free



MRS. NATHAN'S RED TABBY, "PARKSIDE LITTLE SLAM."

Our portrait this week is of Mrs. Nathan's grand Red Tabby stud, Parkside Little Slam, a son of P. Gay Lad. This cat is remarkable for colour and type, and it is worthy of note that the best kitten in show at Croydon last year was one of his get. He is now, with the rest of Mrs. Nathan's fine team, placed at stud. For full details refer to our advertisement columns.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER.

Owing to Mrs. Evans' (Belvedere) inquiries in "Cat Gossip" No. 35, re the L.H. Brownies, I solicited Captain Powell's opinion on the matter, and he has kindly sent the following: "The chief failing in present-day Brown Tabbies is lack of colour. The pre-war Brown Tabbies fell roughly under two headings, viz., the 'Brayford' and 'Persimmon.' The former were very richly coloured, coarse haired cats; the general effect being sombre. I might liken the colour to that rich dark red, so admirably displayed by some women before the days of the shingle and the Eton crops! The Persimmon cats were lighter coloured, the tint being suggestive of red gold, with a finer texture of coat. As regards markings, there is nothing special to say, they conform to the generally accepted standard. The central spine mark must

be clearly defined, as also must the saddle markings, and the round mark on the side of the body. The tail must be ringed, neck markings must be unbroken, and there must be **no** white on lips or chin or anywhere else, of course. With regard to present-day cats, I have only seen one reasonably good specimen for some years, and that, unfortunately, a neuter. This was Mrs. Beckett's Mr. Toots, which won under me at Croydon last year. This cat was too light on the chin, and could have been more red in colour, but taken all round was a fair specimen, and might have been in the money in pre-war days. To those who remember this cat, I would say that when they have got something as good they are in a fair way to succeed. Anyhow he is far and away the best brown tabby I have handled since the war. I have had several chats with Mrs. Evans on the subject of Brown Tabbies, and I warned her that Brown Deer would probably fail to win his challenge certificate under Mrs. Slingsby, who very rightly demands a high standard and adopts an uncompromising attitude to all but the best specimens. My own feelings are those of Mrs. Slingsby, but, considering the lamentable state of the breed, I refuse to do anything to damp the enthusiasm of a breeder, and consequently awarded Brown Deer a challenge certificate. After all, we must take the breed as we find it to-day, and improve it. Champions Persimmon, Viking, Victory, Vector, Copper King, Jewel, and others, provide us with a standard to which we may attain. A Nelson, a Rodney, a Marlborough, a Wellington, set a standard which the present generation has failed to reach by many degrees, but certain elderly gentlemen in the Navy and Army would feel bitterly grieved if promotion to the higher rank were denied them because they failed by comparison with the giants of old!" This explanation of the diametrically opposite point of view taken by two Brown Tabby judges at recent shows may explain Mrs. Evans' difficulty. I did not handle all the B.T.'s at Kentish Town, but it seems likely that Mrs. Soame gave Garb, Mascot 1st on colour. If shown in better condition Ch. Mascot would be the best Brown Tabby of the day. Miss Winifred French writes on the same subject: "I was pleased to see some Brown Tabby notes in 'C. G.' and was interested in Mrs. Evans' query as to what 'is really' wanted in Brown Tabbies? I should think that all who wish to revive this breed share her bewilderment! When Mr. Toots,

the neuter, was exhibited in the first shows last year he was hailed as an almost perfect specimen, but later on someone said he was not a Brown Tabby at all, and he was referred to afterwards as a 'Sable' Tabby!

Mrs. Fosbery reminds us that Newbury Ch. Show, at Reading, is to be held on October 25th. The classification approximately will be the same as last year. As this is the first Ch. show of the year, embracing all breeds, excitement and anticipation generally run high. Mr. House is judging Blues; Mr. Western, Siamese; Miss Lea, Chin., S.T., and Smokes.

I was glad to hear good accounts of Miss Harmer's cats. Her pretty Blue Cream, Josephine Jinks (dam of High Jinks), has been on a visit to Galdorn, and good results are hoped for as the queen is out-growing the injury which she sustained by some cruel hand throwing a brick at her. Miss Yorke has for the second time booked Stella Maria, who previously proved herself such an excellent foster-mother to her Barbara kittens, saving them from an untimely death. The Blue queen, Belvedere, is in kitten to Camperdown, the successful stud of the cattery; this male rejoices in full liberty, consequently Miss Harmer says he has never required a dose of medicine in his life, and if sometimes he turns up with a few battle scars, he gains in health, and is, no doubt, proud of his "honourable trophies." Camperdown is a son of our old Pale Blue friend, Blair Athol, dam Saxon Torfrida.

Notwithstanding Miss George's hands being very full with the Madresfield Show she has found time to send me the latest news of her cattery. Knowing her keenness on colour in Blues, I was anxious for her to give us her ideas on this subject; thus she writes: "I cannot possibly put into words 'Colour in Blues.' I know what I like, and what I want, but alas! it is beyond my brains to pen my thoughts! So let us pass on to 'the family,' who are all very well. The two studs, Love-a-Duck and Flick-a-maroo, have both had a heavy season, consequently are more or less out of coat. Weekie had a family of five by Flick-a-Maroo; the best girl has already gone to her new home, and I hear is a lucky young woman in having a gorgeous garden to play in. Mistress Love has three bonny infants by Love-a-Duck, some of which I hope may be seen at the autumn shows. I regret to say my dear old neuter died a month or so ago; he had not been with me lately, as I could not stand the fights between the boys. Pert is busy bringing in rats for her children, as rabbits are scarce—she is so fond of sport!"

Mrs. Richardson (Walcott) is sad, as owing to being obliged to change houses she is unwillingly compelled to part with Susan and Jinks, both perfect pets and mothers. Miss J. M. Fisher has bought from Mrs. Stubbs a very promising young black male kitten, by Ivanhoe of Hadley, dam is of the "Incents'" breeding. Messrs. Brown and Wilson's veterans, Blue Lagoon and Red Sand, are the proud progenitors of three fine kittens—the

match was self-chosen. One kitten, a black female, is to be a gift to Mrs. Gilbert, of Gateshead.

Mrs. Yeates' June Rose is shortly again expecting a litter by Ch. Billy Bumpet. Miss H. Hill-Shaw has asked me to explain the cause of Lady Pat losing her lovely litter of five, sired by Ch. Tarzan. Lady Pat is a poor breeder, and last year did not produce any kittens, but this year, Miss Hill-Shaw goes on to say, "We were rejoicing over her very hopeful appearance after her visit to Ch. Tarzan, but alas! about three weeks before the kittens were due Pat jumped upon a shelf, missed her footing, and came down, bringing a good sized box down on the top of her. A week before the event another jump brought down a basin, which broke to atoms with a loud crash. So we were not surprised when the kittens were born with open eyes, and otherwise partially injured; fit and well they would have been four lovely coated Smokes and one Blue. Lady Pat hopes again to visit Ch. Tarzan ere long."

My post-bag is an exceedingly heavy one, and I am obliged to hold "Weekly Enquiries" over until next week. I shall try to find time to answer them meantime by post.

I have been busy despatching two young queens to France, through the kind auspices of "Cat Gossip."

COMING CATS.

Nc. 9. L.H. CHINCHILLA KITTENS.

Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Brighteyes, Wisp, Gayboy, Charm, Folly; Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Jewel, Jingle, Chic, Glitter, Jaconet of Runnymede; Mrs. Shacklock, Silver Sailor, Love Dream, Heather; Mrs. Sharman, Jewel and Jest of Coryton; Miss M. Perkins, Just Robin; Mrs. McLeod and Miss Tunks, Chota Sahib of Boreham; Mrs. Newton, Silver Cæsar of Correnden; Misses Grant and Trefusis, Woolley Thistle, Miss Bowden Smith, Miss Muffet of Barley Hill.

Langherne Gayboy was best kitten Northern Ch. Show, sold to Mrs. Baynes, at Newcastle; Charm also changing hands to Mrs. Newton; Folly became the property by kind gift to Mrs. Jepson, who unfortunately lost her from severe chill. Mrs. Sharman bred Jewel and Jest by Jamie, ex Langherne Betty of Coryton. Chotah Sahib is by that lovely winning Queen, Wraith of Boreham. Mrs. Newton's Silver Cæsar is already a stud. Jewel of Runnymede was sold to Lady Cobham as a pet. Mrs. Reynolds Sams' four other Chinchillas, she still owns, and Jingle and Jaconet have much improved in sizes, and Glitter promises well as a future stud. Woolly Thistle, by Ch. Langherne Felix, first in his class under Mr. House at the M.C.C. Just Robin, I think, went abroad. The Chinchillas make a fine entry at all our shows; they do their breeders credit, for they excel in type and points; when the kittens carry mere weight there will be little left to desire.

Next Week: Nc. 10. L.H. Tortoiseshell Kittens.

Gossip of the Week.

Is there anything in the old idea of the affinity between cats and "Old Maids"? It clashes badly with "Beachcomber's" weird notion of "ale-walloping" cat lovers. It has been suggested that it derives from the fact that the priestesses of Bast, in Ancient Egypt, were virgins. An explanatory theory, new at any rate to us, is put forward to-day by an extremely well-known journalist, whose name—one to conjure with in Fleet-street—we are, unhappily, not allowed to publish.

THE "Daily Mail" for 11th inst. gives an article by L. G. M. appealing for information as to the Chinese Drop-eared and Mexican Hairless Cats. If any such information can be obtained, the vast circulation of the "Daily Mail" should achieve this object; and we welcome the article (which was written at our instigation) accordingly; but we do feel that mention should have been made of the Editor of "Cat Gossip," who is therein simply referred to as "a well-known zoologist," considering that he is the person who instituted the inquiries at Legations,

etc., all over the world, as mentioned, and that it is entirely and solely owing to his intervention that science has any knowledge at all of the New Mexican Hairless Cats, the photo of which in the British (N.H.) Museum was presented by him. Honour to whom honour is due!

MRS. BASNETT asks: Have you ever known a cat to lose her voice for several weeks, and then recover it, during the time she was expecting kittens?

THE "Evening News" recently gave an account of a cat at the Bridge House Hotel, Windsor, who rescued a stray kitten from drowning.

MR. PRINTER, perhaps, made some of our readers wonder what extraordinary novelty Mrs. Yeend has managed to produce, by crediting her with winning second with a pair of "Greens," in class 19, at Madresfield! We've not yet got so far in colour production, the exhibits in question being Creams.

POOR old Bottomley, in his gaol reminiscences, relates what a comfort to him was the prison cat, Ras (no relation to the Ras Tafari family), and humorously describes in song how he thought a young fellow-prisoner, who seemed very fond of the cat, could not be such a bad chap, as he loved the cat so, and asked "what he was in for"? "The cat was gently purring, The while he stroked its coat, 'What brings you here, my gentle youth?' 'I cut me sweetheart's throat!'"



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By MUANG T'HAU.

When only two months old Miette became the great pet of Mrs. Merz, and the following, in her own words, is of interest: "At first, for fear she should be stolen, I kept Miette on a small collar and strap when outside, so she got accustomed to walking round the garden with me, and later used to walk the length of the road at night. Some months later we spent three or four weeks at Grasmere, in the Lake District, and not liking to leave Miette at home alone brought her along with us, to my children's joy and excitement. Here Miette regularly accompanied us on our shorter walks and expeditions on the hills, trotting alongside of us on her little chain, very much as a dog would have done. I think in this respect she must hold the 'cat's record' for mountaineering. Miette was remarkably observant. She used to watch us going in and out of rooms, and soon discovered the way we opened a door! Experimenting on her own, she found out that by springing at the handle and hanging on to it by her front paws, she was able to open the door, and afterwards she always adopted this method, so that, if we wanted to shut her up, we had to lock her into her room." Miette grew into a very beautiful cat, with large "forget-me-not" blue eyes, and the charming photo of her with her four sons was taken when her kittens were four months old, a short while before Miette sailed for America. I don't know when I have seen a more charmingly composed photograph. Mingoreen, Miette's daughter, is still a Britisher, and in May had her first family (three kittens) by Miss Busted's stud, Rocio, who seem to have inherited their grandmother's wonderful blue eyes.

Mrs. Wilkie, of Roberstone, Mon., has one kitten from Chumla Scilla, by Sir Garrod Thomas' Yang, whose father was Prestwick Para, dam Ch. Simple. Chumla Chusie feeds the babe, while grandmother and mother vie with each other in keeping it warm.

A fine male kitten Miss F. A. Dixon has just sold to a lady in Norwich, a female of the litter is still for disposal, and the remaining pair Miss Dixon is keeping herself, hoping to show them later on, as their mother is her beautiful Ch. Simple. She is naturally looking forward to their appearance. Nobbles has been mated to Padi of Petaling, and is expecting her first litter early next month. Of Miss Dixon's last season's winning kittens, Simplekin, Simplekit (now re-registered Bonzette), and Simzo, the two latter are too well known to require description. Simplekin, alas! picked up something in the grass, and died of poisoning, to the grief of his new owner. An outside cat-house and grass run have recently been added to "South View," as Miss Dixon says that she found one queen and a family quite enough for the house! This queen is fortunate in possessing a nice airy room with a wired window, and permission to run about the house twice or three

times a day. Mrs. Basnett finds it necessary to insist on the fees for the use of her stud being paid in advance, having had unpleasant experiences with dilatory payers. It cannot be too much emphasized that in the absence of arrangement to the contrary stud fees are payable **when the queen is sent**. She will presently publish the portrait of Croham Boi-Bois in "Cat Gossip." He went very dark all over this spring, but is now changing his coat and coming a nice light colour again. In a week or two we shall publish a really exquisite study of Mrs. Merz's Siamese queen and her three kittens. Miss Leatherdale (Dulverton) is in great distress, her beloved Surma having died, the result, as reported by the V.S. who made a p.m. examination, of the bite of a dog. This sort of thing makes one long for a perpetual muzzling order for all larger dogs when not led, as it seems hopeless to expect half the public to train their dogs properly! Surma was in kitten at the time.

Miss Ruby Cooke (Teignmouth) has been having a terrible time with Jimmie-Wee, who, after having six kittens, nearly lost her life over the seventh, "as big as a puppy." However, after several sleepless nights, it is hoped that Mr. Cowses' skill and care have pulled her through; of course, the kits are dead, but a pair of older kittens are relieving her of her milk.

THE PARKSIDE STUDS.

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A SOLUTION?

Ever since cats have been domesticated the single woman, impudently styled the "Old Maid," has been associated with them in close companionship, and up to now the reason for this remained "wropt in mystery." It is true that they nearly always possess a cat, or cats, and devote a good deal of their time to nurturing them. Like all mysteries, however, this one has been solved. The woman who, from choice or compulsion, is compelled to live a life of single blessedness, must have something to minister to the maternal instinct which belongs to all her sex, therefore, so say the cynics, she turns to the cat because it is so like herself. This theory has been accepted and the subject dismissed with a shrug of the shoulders or a jocular remark. There may be a modicum of truth in the statement, but there is another reason why the cat appeals to lonely womanhood. It is the likeness to the male, not to the female, that endears pussy to the "Old Maid." She has no "man about the house," and she turns naturally to his counterpart. For in the cat she finds manhood rampant. Man is independent, so is Grimalkin; man is selfish, likes his own way, chooses the softest places, takes the warmest seat nearest the fire, orders his meals

at his convenience, is polygamous, stays out all night, if he feels inclined; in a word, the two are one, and in the likeness the unsatisfied instinct of woman turns to the replica of her natural mate, and in ministering to pussy's needs she finds an outlet for her own repressed desires. I wonder?

BIRTHS.

August 10th.—Miss F. Dixon's **Nobbles**, 7 kittens by Mrs. Harvey's **Padi of Petaling**.

August 5th.—Miss Hill-Shaw's **Thea**, 1 beautiful male kitten by Mrs. Kidd's **John of Downside**.

VISIT.

August 10th.—Mr. Goldsmith's **Brown Tabby** to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Red Arate**.

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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.

MANX MALES. Tabby, 7 weeks, G.-sire Ch. Katzenjammer's Ghost, sire Jetsam (1st and C.C. Kentish Town; excellent type; healthy; should win.—MISS RICHARDSON, "Quies," Otford, Sevenoaks.

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