

CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Phone: Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 40

SEPTEMBER 7th, 1927

Price 3d., post free

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER.

Mistress Billy Bumpet has presented Mrs. Elliot with six very pale blue nicely made kittens, by Rig-side Norman (son of Ch. Billy), and Mrs. Elliot kindly tells us her method of rearing the babes: "I do not start to feed my young stock until they are three weeks to one month old, then they have Casol or Lactol; later on I put brown bread into it, and a pinch of salt. By two months I cut up no food, their rabbit is given on the bone in a piece, their fish likewise. Sheep's head and rice, or fish and spaghetti form their principal diet, with Lactol and brown bread, and one beaten egg in sweetened new milk, between them, for an early morning drink. Puppy biscuit, soaked in fish liquor, and Spratt's weet-meet comes from ten weeks onwards. My kittens usually thrive well, and always weigh up to, and more than the average." Mrs. Elliot's address is Moorings, Willaston, Nantwich. As she is judging at the Highbridge (Somerset) Fanciers' Show, in November, she hopes many friends in the Fancy will interest themselves towards making the show a success.

Mrs. Atkinson has parted with all of her Chinchillas, save one, which she is keeping herself for breeding; and four lovely kittens by John of Downside have gone abroad—only one pale blue girl by her Blair Athol queen is left, so Miss Atkinson is meditating a holiday.

Seven males out of nine kittens is a nice record for Mrs. Oglethorpe's breeding season; some, I hear, have lovely long coats, and are of a very pale shade of blue.

By the passing of Miss Clements, of Hawkhurst, the Fancy loses one of its best known breeders. My special admiration was her Desmond of Hawkhurst, whose magnificent head has yet to be surpassed. Handsome Craignour was one of his finest sons, giving the points to his progeny. Miss Clements, we grieve to say, had a long and painful illness, borne with the utmost fortitude. She was a woman of many parts, and will be much missed by her intimate friends.

I should like to remind all our readers that with the near opening of our Ch. Show Season, we must all get busy in our catteries, choosing out our likely winners, and sparing no trouble with brush and comb. Don't let the smaller kittens get bullied by

the older ones, or they will become timid and not show to advantage. A kitten "at home" in the show pen has won half the battle. If your kittens lead a very free life it is just as well sometimes to put them into a pen, to accustom them to being benched.

Miss Malpas, who won a special at Madresfield with a litter of blues, did not reach her home at Lea, Ross, Herefordshire, until ten in the evening. Suzanne and her kits were very tired, but soon got over it, and some of the little ones have found new homes.

I quite agree with Mrs. Jean Waber that the characters of individual cats differ quite as much as the characters of humans, and in both respects may I say "what a blessing"! How tame the world would be if we were all made mentally on one pattern, and how much less interesting our catteries if our pets were each and sundry the prototype of each other! The gist of the matter is that Mrs. Waber rejoices in two mother cats—Nancy and Sally—the first a pattern of all the virtues, the second a lady who deposes all disagreeables to the younger queen, who, in the goodness of her heart, adds them to her own household cares. I can only say I hope there are many "Nancies" and few "Sallies."

Recently I have heard much discussion on "Silvers versus Chinchillas"; are the lovely Chinchillas of the present day losing too much of their "tickling" in their sparkling purity? Will someone learned in this beautiful variety give us the benefit of their opinion?

Miss Edith Clarke has several fine litters of silver tabbies by Ch. Buffola. One queen, Daffy, is granddaughter of Ch. Felix of Frampton and Ch. Devon Dimpsey; and a daughter of Dimpsey is shortly expecting a litter, two males from which are already booked. Miss Clarke wishes more fanciers would take up this most fascinating and intelligent breed. They make such delightful companionable pets.

In the obituary notice on our slip last week the name of Miss J. Langton's stud, Woggs, was unfortunately omitted, but I think everyone would know to whom it referred.

In No. 31 there was a cutting quoted from a report of the American Medical Association re Malta fever, caused by the milk of goats which are kept in an unsanitary condition. The following from the pen of a well known fancier speaks of the benefits to be de-

rived therefrom when obtained in a pure and sanitary state. Miss E. M. Hill writes: "There was a notice a short time ago in 'Cat Gossip' (extracted from 'The Cat Courier.'—ED.) on the 'Danger of goats' milk.' I am away from home, and not having the number with me I cannot quote exactly, but as far as I remember the writer wrote of the goats in Malta. Surely the chief trouble there is dirt, the goats are nothing but scavengers, and feed on all kinds of filth. To do this the poor creatures must be starving, for the goat is naturally a dainty feeder, and if any food falls on the ground 'Nannie' will reject it—this is my experience. Then, again, if the stables are not kept clean, the milk may become tainted. Have we not all tasted very strong cow's milk? Goats kept clean and well fed give good rich milk, more pleasant, heavier in butter fats, and in every way superior to any cow's milk obtainable; last, but by no means least, the goat is practically immune from tuberculosis, so to one and all I say, if possible feed your animals, your babies, two and four-legged, and your invalids on goat's milk, but know your goatkeeper, and the conditions under which the goats are kept. I should need a whole book, not merely 'an article' if I gave you all the 'cases' I have known, and the benefits which even women and children have derived from the use of goat's milk. All animals love it and thrive on it. Our cats delight in it, and Whatmer, my stud cat, will not drink cow's milk. Some time ago we were short, and day after day he left his cow's milk, but when his dish was filled once more with the right kind from the goat, he settled down and lapped up every drop, looking at us with the air of 'you might have known I wanted this.'"

While still on the goat subject, Miss J. M. Fisher, while in Malta, was scandalised by the condition of the poor goats. They are mostly kept in dark, dismal surroundings, so infamous that visitors dare not enter. The emaciated animals are brought round by their owners and milked in the streets, but no European dreams of drinking their milk, and many natives succumb to the Malta fever, which is caught from germ-tainted fluid.

Mrs. Sidney Evans is enjoying a pleasant tour in the Austrian Tyrol. She intends returning home in about three weeks' time. Mrs. Bazeley has kindly undertaken the care of some of her pets during her absence.

Hendon Dauntless, a handsome young blue stud, son of Mr. Freeman's Bonnie Craggie, has just crossed the Channel. He possessed the deepest copper eyes and a good broad skull; his dam was Araminta, bred the same as Ch. Prudence of Allington. I bought him as a kitten after the last S.C.C.C. Show, and he spoke well for his breeding.

RE-SALE OF HERD LADDIE.

I have just heard from my friend, Miss Hydon, Lavender Catteries, Bagota, U.S.A., that she has purchased this sensational son of Milord o' Mendip for a substantial sum from Lady Eardley Wilmott.

Gossip of the Week.

It is well known that we have always been against the indiscriminate giving of veterinary advice, for the reason that whilst the giver of advice may be right the inquirer may have made a wrong diagnosis, and consequently harm may be done. We have noted of late several protests in the columns of a contemporary against the recommendation of a large stock of drugs, etc., to fanciers, and now we notice that Mrs. Singleton, who always recommends simplicity in cat rearing, firmly refuses to give veterinary advice, and quotes the words of that leading practitioner, Mr. H. Gray, who said: "Vivisectionists, legally so called, are not the only experimenters, for there are many who create suffering by giving something about which they know nothing for a disease about which they know less."

WE ARE interested in Mrs. Elliot's remarks on the manner in which she feeds her kittens. For "donkey's years" we have advocated letting the kittens "gnaw" their food by giving them "chunks" (of course, such as cannot be swallowed), instead of mince, which does not exercise teeth, gums, jaws, or promote the necessary salivation.

THAME, September 15th: We hear Mrs. Fosbery is to judge.

LAST week's "Sunday Pictorial" contained some really very humorous pictorial suggestions showing how cats might relieve the monotony of greyhound racing. (Issue of 28th August.)

CERTAIN readers have asked us for the address of Mrs. Egerton Free, whose great work for our helpless friends was recently described in our columns. ("Cat Gossip" No. 38.) Mrs. Free's advertisement of her boarding-house for cats appears in our advertisement columns, but as this has been overlooked we will mention that the address of this deserving institution is 2, Morland Road, Croydon, and we do hope it will receive support from our readers. Mrs. Free makes a real martyrdom of her life in the endeavour to succour suffering cats and dogs.

A MANX cat is suckling two foxhound puppies at the East Kent Foxhound kennels. A year or so ago an American paper published a delightful picture of a Manx cat with her foster children, two nearly full-grown silver foxes.

WE draw attention to the notice of the **Cat's Protection League** in our business columns. Surely amongst the many Cat Fanciers someone will help in this good work! It is not only money that is wanted, but also active help. Ladies with local influence could greatly assist the cause. We understand that silver paper, tooth paste tubes, etc., may be collected for the benefit of the C.P.L.

WE HAVE, of late, had numerous inquiries for back numbers of "Cat Gossip" to make up sets. Some of these are quite out of print, and we should ourselves be glad to obtain a few copies of Nos. 1 and



5. Of Nos. 2 to 12, also 19, 25, and 30, we have only two or three copies each to spare, which can be had for 6d. each; the other back numbers we can supply at 4d. each, whilst they are available. We would again remind subscribers and advertisers that we have suffered several "losses in post," and impress upon them that all P.O.'s should be either made payable to H. C. Brooke, at Bishop's Hull Post Office, or **crossed Westminster Bank, Balham, a/c payee**; in this case the name of Post Office should **not** be inserted, but the name of payee as above mentioned. Keep counterfoils.

MISS LANGSTON informs me that a whole family of Burmese cats have recently been imported, and are, she thinks, for disposal. A few years back we should have "jumped at" them. Alas! A.D. is making itself strongly felt, and we do not feel equal to much live stock. We hope they will get into quarters where they will be appreciated.

VIENNA cat lovers, we learn, hope it will be possible to arrange for the Editor of "Cat Gossip" to judge at their next year's show.

MANY readers who know Major F. T. G. Hobday, (Hon. V.S. to His Majesty) will be interested to learn that he has been appointed Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, London.

NEXT issue is Siamese column week; please send in all your news to make this feature (found in "Cat Gossip" alone) interesting. We have given up as a bad job appealing to other S.H. for news!

AILMENTS OF THE CAT.

Motto:

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

Bombastes Furioso.

ON "FITS."

Of late the daily Press has repeatedly mentioned hysteria in hounds, dogs, and cats. This is not new. Just twenty years ago "Our Cats" said: "When cats roll on the ground in convulsions, clench their jaws and foam at the mouth, they are suffering from hysteria, and the remedy is not powder and shot, but something to soothe the nerves. This valuable information is on the authority of M. Gobron, a prominent French veterinary surgeon." Hamilton Kirk observes anent such cases: "In temperament they are excitable, and possibly aggressive, and may upon occasions evince marked hysteria, such attacks having been known to terminate in epileptiform convulsions. The root of the evil is not uncommonly connected with some disease or irritable state of the generative organs." Of course, the fits "thrown" by some kittens when teething are not to be confused with this ailment; also we have known kittens suddenly stung by one of the "gentlemen" (vidé a certain well known writer), the wasp, to have what might be taken to be a "fit." Woodroffe Hill mentions cases of gastric irritation, caused by worms, causing cats to dash through a window, race madly



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up and down stairs, and so forth. For true epilepsy, Kirk says: **Never** attempt to give any liquid or solid during unconsciousness, but chloroform vapour may be applied to the nostrils; applications of cold water to head and back of neck; later sodium bromide tablets, 3 to 10 grains, may be given twice or thrice daily. Bowels to be kept relaxed, for which purpose liquid paraffin may be given, and all excitement must be avoided. When teething is thought to be the cause of the trouble in kits, the bowels must be kept open, and the kitten encouraged to nibble meaty bones. The raw leg bone of a rabbit, with some meat attached, is good for this purpose, and helps "cutting" the teeth.

CATS OUT OF THE COMMON.

BY F. E. LEANING.

I.

There are exceptions to every rule, and certain examples occur even in the ordinary cat tribe so familiar to us. The late Sir Edward Marshall Hall, for instance, had a couple of very beautiful grey cats, which were the admiration of those visitors who saw them on the balcony of his house. Their peculiarity was that they were never heard to mew or purr, even when caressed, but this was due to a perfectly natural reason. They belonged to a species which I have never met with any mention of in books on natural history, or even in Mr. H. C. Brooke's articles, though I have for some years had one of the same kind myself. He has an exceptionally long neck, and holds his tail in an unusual way, curled up over the back instead of at the side. Another exceptional cat is one which is kept at Brompton Hospital, where it is said to keep the kitchen free of mice most efficiently. The picture given of it in the "Daily Mail" does not show any striking difference from other mousers, but its peculiarity lies in its shortcomings in the third dimension. That is, although it has the usual length and height, it has hardly any thickness. Those who have seen it readily understand why this is.

Another very noble cat is unique through what I may call its services to the State, and also its great size. This is the Russo-Persian cat, "Trilly," which lived for ten years at the War Office, and now dwells (behind glass) at South Kensington Museum. He is the largest specimen of a cat that I have ever seen, and has a look of contented benevolence in his glass eyes which is a wonder to see. As a contrast I will mention last a little cat of my own, a beautiful orange, with a tail quite three inches long, which just doubles his height. He has never got any larger than this in the course of the three or four months I have had him. Did I say, by the way, that my long-necked cat is a delicate green, to match the vases which he belongs to? He wears a broad smile on his face, as I hope my readers will do when they realise what all these wonderful cats are really made of!

(To be continued.)

CATS AT CHESTER.

AUGUST 21st.

BY MRS. TOMLINSON.

For the fourth time the Cheshire Agricultural Society gave us a cat section at their Annual Show. Mr. Townsend judged in his usual capable style, ably stewarded by Miss Wrench; Mrs. Elliot and Miss Waterhouse assisted in the feeding, and all doing their best for the comfort of exhibits and exhibitors. The weather was perfect, and with beautiful surrounding scenery, the river running alongside the show ground, plenty of space, and airy tents, nothing better could be desired.

In ADULTS, M. or F., Mrs. Jinks' beautiful cream topped the lot; second, Mrs. Tomlinson, red tabby queen, gorgeous eyes, good colouring; third, a beautiful blue belonging to Mrs. Jarvis. KITTENS, under 9 months—1st, Mrs. Elliot, lovely blue male, was taken out for best in show, grand head, pale even blue, should have a future; 2nd, Mrs. Comber, another promising blue; 3rd, Mrs. Tomlinson, red tabby male. KITTENS, under 4 months—Mrs. Comber headed the list with a nice blue male of Chitabob of Runnymede; 2nd, Mrs. Tomlinson, red tabby, daughter of Little Slam, promising, also two specials; 3rd, Miss Wrench, very nice Chinchilla baby.

SHORT HAIR—1st, Mr. Hough, with my ideal Red S.H., Ch. Clayton Masher; I am not clear whether a white or a silver tabby was second; 3rd, Mrs. Curran, tabby; 4th, Mr. Burnett, tortie-and-white. Special for best eyes in show—Mrs. Jarvis's exhibit. Best male under 4 months—Mrs. Comber.

There was a remarkably good attendance to see this section, at times one could not get near the pens, and when some of us took our pets out of the pens the greatest interest was shown by the visitors. Several exhibits found buyers at the prices demanded.

A bye-law was passed which required all ships entering Australian ports to file on arrival a schedule of cats on board, and to produce those cats on departure as proof that none had been left behind. The bye-law would not work, and fell into disuse. Between the dates of arrival and departure, it was possible for a ship with a complement of eight cats to have the strength increased to fifteen or more. If, then, a ship's company of eight cats could be registered on arrival and produced on departure in spite of the fact that seven or eight cats had been landed as unofficial immigrants, the enforcement of the bye-law was impracticable. So, more favoured than dogs, which may not land at all, and firemen, who may be kept on board, puss still goes ashore at Woolloomooloo or Freemantle, deserts or rejoins her ship at will, immigrates and settles down, or transships to foreign ports as suits her purpose.—"Daily Mail."

WHAT READERS SAY.

"I am sure I and all my friends respect you and your views voiced in 'Cat Gossip.' Vivisection is an abomination, and should not be tolerated in a Christian country."—(Mrs.) G. Campbell Fraser.

"I honour you for facing disagreeable facts, and if other people object they are simply not animal lovers! So I hope you'll go on doing your good work."—(Miss) Ruby B. Cooke (Teignmouth).

"Glad you champion the cause of anti-vivisection: It is terrible to think some of the vivisectionists are women!"—(Miss) E. M. Hill (Herne Bay).

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The Adult Classes will be judged by Mrs. Bassett, and the Kittens by Mrs. Wade. The Show closes at 6.30 p.m. Anyone wishing for extra Schedules, kindly apply to me. The Entries Close Sept. 5th. Any alteration or information necessary for Exhibitors will be published in "Cat Gossip" and "Fur and Feather." Please Note.—E. C. BUSTEED (Hon. Sec.), 20, Queensway, Hanworth.

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