

CAT · GOSSIP

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAU.

Our friend and confrère, M. Armand Steens, publishes in "Chasse et Pêche" a warning to the public not to be alarmed by the rumours now being spread by Belgian cat-haters that cases of leprosy have been caused by scratches from "Eastern," i.e., Siamese and Persian cats. Our British liars have not displayed so much inventive talent; they yet stick to the good old mildewed diphtheria-spreader and lie-on-baby's-face yarns. In the alleged Belgian cases, three in number, the pathetic touch has been obtained by making the victims brides whose lovers had presented them with the fatal cats! How heartrending! We suspect these luckless young ladies, if sought for, would prove as illusive and elusive as were in this country, in 1915, the handless Belgian children and the German governesses with bombs in their boxes, reputed to be thick as leaves in Vallombrosa!

Miss Leatherdale writes that one of her Jimbois—Little Puma litter, having apparently heard that Dulverton is a great centre for trout and salmon fishing, has arrived with a most perfectly shaped fish hook in the way of a tail. It seems to us that short and kinky "Malay" tails are becoming far more common than they were. Caudal abnormalities seem to reproduce with great obstinacy; witness how a half-bred Manx tom will often sponsor a whole village full of stump-tail cats; therefore fanciers who do not like such tails should be very careful to study the family records of stock with which they intend to breed. In France the preference seems to be for the kinky ones.

Mrs. Lewis (Bombay) has purchased a kitten from Mrs. Harvey, and is taking it out with her.

Mrs. Scott-Russell (Henley) has a long experience of our breed, which she used to keep when in the Straits Settlements. This spring, by the death of Kuching Susan, she lost her last member of a strain she had owned since 1890, so she was very pleased to be able to buy back from Mrs. Cade, Susan's daughter, Kuching Kama, who now has a fine litter of six, by Simzo. The S.H. Blue Bunty has taken upon herself the charge of Kama's family, whilst Susan spends her time catching mice in the fields for them. Mrs. Scott-Russell thinks

the climate has much to do with the darkening of the coat. When in the East all her cats were beautifully light; in 1906 she brought three back, but only Wee Winkles survived, and he was 14 years old when he passed; even in his second year his coat was darker than his mother's, who was seven when left in Singapore. Have any readers who have bred Siamese in the tropics any views on this matter? Mrs. Scott-Russell took a first and S.M. with an imported neuter Siamese in 1888 at the Palace. By the way, her prefix "Kuching" is Malay for "Cat."

Mrs. Laws (Colston), who is bringing up three "Colstons" to the Show, has promised us some items shortly.

From Mrs. Allen-Maturin comes a regular budget of ill news. We fear this dreadful "summer" has treated Siamese very badly. Already doctors are prophesying a bad winter for humans, who have had no opportunity to absorb the beneficent sunlight; we fear it will be a bad winter, too, for our cats. Mrs. Maturin writes: "Mrs. Rogers (Bournemouth) has had a great loss in her beautiful Mitzie, who died of acute pneumonia; she was a daughter of Ruakina of Cornwall, and my Martini, one of a litter of six, one of which was my little Suvadina, who died some time ago. Mitzie had three nice kits by my Bashi-Bazouk, one of the last litters he sired before I had to put him to sleep this spring; a lovely young male from this litter I have just sent to New York. I hope to show his little sister at the Show. The beautiful kitten I had from Miss Leatherdale is dead; I fancy he must have picked up something that stuck in his inside. Whilst I was away two of my Siamese that I had put to board caught cat 'flu of a virulent kind, brought in by another boarder; nine cats at the home went down with it, but all but one recovered, thanks to a new and wonderful serum with which the V.S. inoculated them; it has only quite recently been put on the market with wonderful results; if used at the first signs it arrests the disease so that they only suffer slightly and continue eating all the time. (Please, Mrs. Maturin, tell us where this is obtainable?) I was looking forward to a litter by Ni-Perm, ex Myosotis; she had no milk and could do nothing for them; I could not get a foster, and lost them all. Then I lost my beloved little Su-Jitsu, who could not bring her kits; the V.S. said the only hope would be a Caesarean operation; four

kits were removed; one I put on a foster found after a house-to-house search; she attended to it for three days, and then mauled it." With all this trouble it is no wonder Mrs. Maturin does not feel at all well.

Mr. Lloyd-Lewis bewails the death of his best female, Gillian, who died kitting; the litter also died. She was a very good cat, as yet unshown. This year Mr. Lloyd-Lewis has bred 18 kittens, and lost 10 of them! Ch. Bonzo will not be at the Show this year, but will be well represented by his progeny. Miss Benthall is staying at Saunton (N. Devon). She has some Siamese with her; they love to play on the beautiful stretches of sand for which the place is noted.

SCARCITY OF SIAMESE IN SIAM.

"The Straits Times," of August 10th (published in the Straits Settlements), says: "It is patent that unless an organised attempt, preferably under State aegis, is made to keep pure the breed of the Siamese cat, in a few years there will be very few to be found in the Kingdom, and if anyone seeks them Europe will have to be approached. . . . Reckless breeding has led to an impure breed. . . . Some people have bred them and are keeping them pure, but it would surely be a reflection for people in the East to have to turn to Europe for a cat that should be in large numbers in this country."

Look out for some very interesting Siamese matter from Mrs. Croucher, issue of 28th, which contains Club Show report!

SIAMESE CAT CLUB SHOW.

I am sorry to say that Classes 3 and 4, Veteran and Blue and Chocolate Pointed, have been cancelled owing to no entries. Class 17 and 18, Kitten, Male and Female, over 6 and under 9 months, have been amalgamated. Although the entries are good, owing to so much illness in the early spring the Kitten Classes are not as large as last year, and several well-known cats have died since the last Club Show, but in spite of all drawbacks we are looking forward to a good attendance.

E. C. BUSTEED, Hon. Sec.

(We are so sorry to hear Miss Busted is unwell and in great pain in her hand—just at this juncture, too!—Ed.)

LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER.

Later on in the year a section of four Cat Classes are to be added to the Salisbury and District Poultry Society's Show. Through the Hon. Secretary, E. A. Holmes, Esq., the Southern Counties' Cat Club are presenting a silver spoon for the best cat in show. As one of the "Kindergarten Shows" we hope all interested in cats will remember Salisbury; in itself the beautiful old town is well worth a visit, and the

Southern Railway is probably issuing cheap tickets.

The good judgment of Mrs. Stevens, of Hanham Court, is worthy of note, and we wish she would allow her name to be on the list of Blue Persian Judges. From a litter of four males, shown at Newbury by Mrs. Allen last October, Mrs. Stevens picked her future winner, Merlin o' Mendip, whose picture appeared in "Cat Gossip" No. 36.

Hendon Black Giulia, the winning female kitten at Sandy Show, has been purchased by Mrs. Lewis, through the medium of Mrs. Martin Timms; she starts for India on the 15th inst. A black male kitten from Mrs. Timms' cattery is to be her fellow traveller. Mrs. Lewis and her husband are great cat lovers, and have always kept two or three as pets; they have the run in the cool of the day of a very beautiful Indian garden, for gardening is Mrs. Lewis' hobby. She prides herself specially on a wonderful collection of lilies, to which she is constantly adding new specimens. At one time Mrs. Lewis possessed a white Persian cat, brought to her by a friend from the high tableland of Persia; this cat lived for five or six years, and was the household's great pet and admiration. He was a fine big fellow, with immense ruff, tufts in his ear, and a tail carried high in the air, like a pure white ostrich feather. His eyes were very blue when young, but became later of a wonderful grey shade. Consequent on a change of residence, this grand white boy became restless, and would wander at night time; it was thus he lost his life, by a fatal tussle with a stray dog.

I am always pleased to hear from Mrs. Kennaway, and she tells me of many "small additions" arrived and hoped for, at the home of the Garboldisham cats. Mrs. Kennaway writes: "I have a nice quartet of kittens by Watmer (Miss E. M. Hill's stud) from Golden Mist, and should have shown them at Sandy, but thought them too young to leave their mother and take the journey alone, as I was, unfortunately, unable to go myself. Tortoiseshell and white I find most amusing to breed from. I mated Bobby Dazzle and Boojum (she is Dame Molley's daughter, and he is descended from Ch. Dirty Dick and Wynstay Wallflower), and the result was one nice tortie (no white), one grey and white, and two white with orange tails, orange ears, and an orange spot on their backs; these last are really very attractive kits, but I am afraid too decidedly A.O.V.! Anemone is daily expecting a family by Jasper of Hadley, but I am not counting on them, as she has failed to bring up her last two families. I am interested to see that Miss Savory has four brown tabby kittens by Brown Deer, my Ch. Mascot's son. I have only one brown tabby queen, Tabitha, and she elected to have but one child this year—a fine son—who will, I hope, appear later on on the show bench."

I was pleased to see both Mr. House and Mr. Norris in the cat tent at Sandy, taking a well-earned respite from their various labours. Mr. Norris was judging collies.



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Miss J. M. Fisher has a particularly promising blue Persian kitten, by Idol of Hadley, ex Gentian; this little queen is a pet of mine, her face is so sweet and snubby. All the Hadley cats are enjoying the change to Hampshire, commencing to put on their coats preparatory to the show season. Two new blue kittens, and, perchance, a brown tabby are to be added to the family. With some of the famous Hadleys Miss Fisher is hoping to motor to Newbury.

Miss E. M. Hill has been seedy of late, and was in Town seeing a specialist the other day. We all hope she will hurry and get quite well for the coming shows.

I am glad to hear that Mrs. Gill, a Yorkshire exhibitor, is anxious to join some of the clubs; she lately won the S.C.C.C. Silver Spoon for the Best Cat in Show at Harrogate Agricultural Show.

An encouraging suggestion comes to hand from Miss Hydon (U.S.A.), which I hope may be embraced by the B.P.C.C., of England. Miss Hydon has written to the Hon. Secretary of the Society to ask if the Club will present a medal over there when a show is held, promising at the same time to give one or more of the B.C.S. Medals (U.S.A.) to the English Club. A pretty and graceful exchange, to which I think the Club will acquiesce.

WEEKLY QUERIES.

E. L. (St. James), having recently taken up black Persians, wishes to know whether they should be

brushed as well as combed?—There is a popular theory to the contrary. Comb by all means to remove all dead hair, and groom with the hand to make the coat glossy. Wet weather has a deleterious effect on the colour of a black Persian, making it brown and dull. Moral: Don't let your blacks out in the rain.

Mrs. Escott (Richmond) would like to know at what age the kittens should be taken from the mother cat?—If all is going well, certainly not before eight weeks old. A mother cat will give up her kittens after this time in a gradual manner, but if her strength is being unduly tried, it is best to make the kittens independent and relieve her.

Gossip of the Week.

MISS LEATHERDALE inquires about the use of castor oil, which a well-known breeder advised her to give to queens before kitting. We are well aware that many breeders, both of cats and dogs, make a perfect fetish of the use of this oil, which, personally, we consider very over-rated, and when, as frequently happens, used to excess, very harmful. We think that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the judicious use of olive oil will confer all the benefits without the risks. When given in the form of oil from sardines most cats take it willingly. What do our readers think on this subject?

WE hear that M. Armand Steens, of Antwerp, who recently purchased Day Dream from Mrs. Oglethorpe, through the introduction of "Cat Gossip," is now purchasing a kitten—of which Mrs. Oglethorpe has nine. She thinks her litter of four males and one female, by Dazzler of Henley, is the best all round lot she has had.

THE charitably inclined are referred to Mrs. Eyres Simmons' appeal.

SOME of our readers have done great work in collecting signatures for Miss Parker's Parliamentary Petition against Vivisection of Cats (see advertisement). Here **everyone** can help. Let it not be said dog owners are the only people who actively protest against these horrors!

THE "Telegraph" says:—"Mr. Arthur R. Cotton, Lord of the Manor of Ashstead, in the parish of which the remains of a Roman villa have been found, spoke at a meeting of the Sutton Rotary Club yesterday. 'The Lord Mayor of London,' he said, 'has told us that there is no truth in the story of Dick Whittington and his cat, and the reason he gives is that there were no cats in England in Dick Whittington's time. But I have here a piece of Roman tile made in the second century, and made at Ashstead, too, and on this piece of tile a cat put his paw while the tile was still soft, and left a clear impression of it. Curiously enough, this tile was made and found within a few yards of Sir Rowland Blade's house at Ashstead, and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that this cat, which has left such conclusive testimony of its existence, caught field mice in Sir Rowland Blade's garden seventeen or eighteen hundred years ago.'"

MISS HYDON (Lavender Catteries, Bagota, U.S.A.) writes: "I remember H. C. Brooke by name since the time Lady Decies used to show Zaida, and Miss Whitney her wonderful brownies." Yes! we first showed cats at the C.P. in 1895, to wit, the infant, who later became Champion and Premier Katzenjammer, and his sire Kater.

WE are sorry to hear that our old friend, Mr. Gambier Bolton, the world-famous wild animal photographer, had a very long and serious illness, lasting several months. He is now better; in fact, as he remarks, fairly fit at 74! Mr. Gambier Bolton had a good deal to do with the Cat Fancy in days gone by, and was a moving spirit in The Cat Club. Perhaps his best known cat was the beautiful Manx D-tail (a son of Ch. Katzenjammer), also the grand black Manx Primrose, whose portrait was used by the Railway Company to illustrate their posters advertising the Isle of Man. Mr. Bolton tells us he has just joined the Bournemouth Fur and Feather Society (he having left Exeter this spring), and thinks there will be a Cat Show there in November. MRS. BROUGHTON-HAWLEY has a very charming young S.H. male "silver-blue tabby," which she hopes to rear, as it is now over four months old. This is the variety which charmed Mr. Yeates so much—blue markings on silver ground. She also has some L.H.

of the same colour, but, naturally, the S.H. will show off their markings better. The blue tortie, Funny Face, unhappily lost all her kittens a week ago, including a very perfect tortie. Mrs. Hawley has had a lot of ill-luck with kits this year, and attributes it to this horrible sunless "summer."

MESSERS. W. Foulsham and Co. are shortly bringing out a cheap popular Cat Book by Mr. A. de Bary Saunders. It will contain a number of portraits of typical cats. We understand the price will be 1s., and it will be in the same style as their "Everybody's Dog Book," by Rosslyn Mantering.

THE "Jamaica Gleaner" reprints word for word our Editor's article in the "Daily Mail" on Manx cats. Last Friday's "Daily Mail" contained a most fascinating study of a bloodhound and a tabby cat.

PLENTY of Abyssinian kits advertised this week; some "dirt cheap!"

MISS SAVORY would like to hear if any readers know of an instance similar to this? She has a black male kitten with a pure sable undercoat. What is it likely to turn out? The sire was a brown tabby; dam, blue; her mother was from a pre-war strain of brown tabbies; her sire blue, back for generations through the Emberton and Thorpe blues. He is a fine kitten, with big head and tremendous coat for a baby.

MR. PERCIVAL has been to see the Worthing cat with "freak" ears. He writes: "He does not prick his ears, the size of which is normal, and he holds them in the position one often see when a cat is angry." The cat is a neuter, so we cannot learn if this would be perpetuated; but we are of opinion it was the existence of a strain like this which gave rise to the story of the Chinese Drop-Eared Cat.

CATS OUT OF THE COMMON.

BY F. E. LEANING.

II.

AND now to pass from china and cardboard and chenille to the real thing. Whenever I turn over the mass of Press cuttings which I have collected in the last few years, I always pause, not over some winner whose only merit is the length of his fur, but over those really unique and wonderful cats that have achieved something. There is Russ, the cat that makes friends with lions, and is sent to comfort other wild things in the first smart of desolation and captivity at the London Zoo. He was the playmate of the cub, "Mary Pickford," there last year. There is the Persian who has travelled over 60,000 miles on the Cunard liner, Mauretania, with her master, the Captain, and another travelling cat who regularly takes the train to a South Coast town from a London terminus, and really belongs to the buffet there. There is the cat who, if he does not swim the Channel, at least swims in it, off the coast of Jersey, in company with a dog, who is his friend, and another,

a fresh-water cat, which sits by the bank of a river watching for rats, and plunges to the attack. One of the cats in my "unique" class is George, of Chelsea, who has shaken hands with the Queen, and I think Ginger, of St. John's Wood, who enjoys ice-cream in penny cornets, and buys his own, ought to be reckoned in. The only wonder of a cat that really taxed my belief (until I heard of another) was one that talked, not only in its own complicated and expressive tongue, but in ours. It was reported to me to have crept into a room where the maid was on her knees polishing the floor, and leaped on her back, suddenly, with a cry of "Sarah!" which was her name. This was just a joke of the cat's, but he would come into the sunny silent hall and call out "Where are you?" and on being answered from above would dash upstairs to his mistress's room.

And there was a cat (I can give chapter and verse for her record) who took a message from a lady in her bedroom to her sister downstairs, and the sister acted on it; but perhaps this is enough for one issue of "Cat Gossip."

BIRTHS.

August 31st.—Mrs. Burke's **Ninka-Me**, six kittens (three still-born) by Mrs. Hindley's **Simzo** (Siamese).

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The Adult Classes will be judged by **Mrs. Basnett**, 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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