

CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 42

SEPTEMBER 21st, 1927

Price 3d., post free

AN ELOPEMENT.

Supine on the window ledge, breezy and high,
Breathing twilight's sweet scents, cool and calm,
The Blue Persian watches, disdainful of eye,
The lean black cat from Niggleses Farm.

A Fairy Princess she, in fluffy smoke blue,
Surely dropped from some mystic cat-sphere,
An aristocrat, known to Pussy's "Who's Who,"
Still awaiting her knight and compeer.

But hush! from below sounds a call, clear and strong,
And One sings serenades to his Fair:
"I have fought in the lists: I have loved you for long!
O most Queenly One, must I despair?"

The base stable villain I soon put to flight,
And I scared the poltroon from the mill;
There are few who will answer my challenge to fight,
Queen, for you I have put forth my skill!

'A poor common rat-catcher' was it you said?
'A rough working-class cat—nothing more'—
Well, if all of us cats were high-class and well-bred,
Who would keep down the rats at the store?

Come, roam through the stables when pale moonbeams
creep

Through the cobweb-hung windows—I'll show
The eaves, where the young swallows stir in their sleep,
With the old watch-dog snoring below.

Come, creep through the dewy grass, where the kine
feed,

Hear the night wind make love to the trees:
Hist! The splash of the water-rat in the pond weed—
There! Fern-shadows that dance in the breeze.

Moon-lace, made from bracken, beside the larch wood;
Hear the gladsome brook laugh to the stars;
Whilst dog-roses dream, and the owl hunts for food,
And the river-mist rises in bars.

From valleys where Tamar winds on through the hills,
And the world is all cool, scented dark:
Your garden's a prison—come out, learn the thrills
Of the Danger-Lands—outside the Park!"

She stretches—her soul hears the call of the wild;
Feels the gay, gallant rover-cat's charm—
A spring! She has left her life guarded and mild
For that lean cat from Niggleses Farm!

M. A. NORTHCOTE.

"Cat Gossip" is privileged in being allowed to publish the above lines by this gifted writer, whose verses "The Railway Cat," which appeared in No. 12, form one of the very best "catty" poems ever written. An exquisite piece of prose by Miss Northcote, entitled "The Witching Hour," appeared in "Cat Gossip" No. 22.—Ed.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

I am glad to hear that Miss Winifred Longley is now convalescent, although it will be a considerable time before she is again able to work amongst her pets. A winter abroad may be imperative.

There are some queens, just a few, who invariably produce "winners," and just now I am thinking of blues. Wuffy, belonging to Miss J. Langton, is one of them. This time she is in kitten to John of Bedale, and the prospective litter will be very interesting. Wuffy, born in 1921, had previously visited two studs, Ch. Azure of Hadley and his son, Ch. Billy Bumpet. Two other consistent blue breeders of winners are Mrs. Yeates' June Rose and Lady Eardley Wilmot's Tiddleywinks of Bedale. There are no doubt others, but one's mind leaps back to the older days, when Scilla of Hadley was in her glory; she was truly wonderful as regards her litters, but, unfortunately, gave up breeding during the last years of her life. Again, through the vista of time looms the dainty figure of that marvellous little Mother Queen of the Fancy, Ch. Regina of Emberton, whose union to Ch. Neila Billi of Thorpe was consistently successful. The sad death of one of these "epoch-making" queens has just been recorded, Lady Eardley Wilmot having lost Frolic of Hadley. Early in life this queen began her winning career as a kitten in the hands of her breeder, Mrs. Stephen, of Hyver fame. Frolic was sired by Ch. Azure of Hadley, and her mother was that very beautiful cat, Hepatica of Hyver. Miss J. M. Fisher bought her for a substantial price during her winning kittenhood, later showing her as an adult at the M.C.C., where she was placed in the championship class. I remember her well, for she visited my stud, Hendon Pooh-Bah, by whom she successfully reared a litter of kittens, amongst them being Fascination of Hadley, a good queen, who later came to Hendon Arac. Lady Eardley Wilmot purchased Frolic in February, 1922. She wrote to me saying she was anxious to find a first-class queen, and I recommended the Hadley Cattery, where her want might be supplied. It was Lady Eardley Wilmot's first venture into catdom, and a most remarkable

one it proved. In October, 1923, Frolic produced (by Barry Blue Prince) Autumn Glory and Autumn Mist; the first as lovely a winning queen as one could wish to see. In 1924 Ch. Judy of Hadley, by Dazzler of Henley; this handsome queen, in the hands of Miss J. M. Fisher, took her three championships at three consecutive shows—a wonderful feat! In 1925 Frolic, mated to Ch. Gentleman of Henley, had a fine litter, which comprised Joyous June, Ch. Leander, and Summer Knight of Henley—no wonder her owner is sad beyond words at the loss of such a queen!

Gossip of the Week.

THROUGH the kindness of Mrs. Veley, we shall shortly—probably in No. 44—give the only existing portrait of the sole specimen of the Sacred Cat of Japan which is known to have been brought to this country. It is but a couple of years ago that the Editor of "Cat Gossip" was enabled to make known, for the first time, particulars of the Sacred Burmese Temple Cats, of which a few exist in Paris, and, as far as we know, nowhere else in Europe. Still less is known of this Japanese cat, and we understand that the photos have not even been shown to anyone, so that the readers of "Cat Gossip" will be the first and only ones to become acquainted with it. MR. AND MRS. Yeates have returned from their stay on the Brittany Coast, and we are sure the whole Fancy will echo our wish that Mrs. Yeates may have derived lasting benefit from the change.

MRS. TIMMS writes:—"Through 'Cat Gossip' I have sold a nice black male to go to India, the same purchaser is taking with her a black female from Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, also a Siamese from Mrs. Harvey. I have a tortie sister of the black, which I hope to exhibit this season, when I expect to make my debut in Smokes with a nice female I had from Mrs. Jourdain. I have a good young blue male and blue cream female by my young cream stud, Rara Avis—his first mating, and that a "stolen" one! I hope presently to put him at stud in 'Cat Gossip.'" WE learn that Miss Bowden-Smith has sold a blue-smoke to Mme. Péreyrol, through the medium of "Cat Gossip." Mme. Péreyrol seems to be getting together the biggest L.H. cattery in France.

MRS. VELEY has sold the Siamese, Flame of the Forest, to go to America. This cattery has not been exempt from the bad luck which has affected all Siamese breeders this year, so that Mrs. Veley will only be represented by three exhibits at the Club Show to-day.

SALISBURY Show, October 13th. Four classes for cats are provided, also specials. Particulars will be found in our business columns. Mr. Ashley Holman, the Hon. Secretary, tells us that if these cat classes, which are being provided for the first time at this show, prove a success, better things may be looked

for next year, so that the matter lies in exhibitors' hands.

"NOS CHATS," the quarterly illustrated cat paper, published by the Société Centrale Féline, is delayed in publication owing to the amalgamation of that body with the Cat Club de Paris. We learn it will appear in October.

MRS. LEANING's mention of the cat who played the practical joke on the maid, reminds us that at the Berlin Cat Show last "summer" (who laughed?) there was exhibited a preparation of the mouth and throat organs of a cat which, in life, could utter several words.

REFERRING to Miss Leatherdale's enquiry as to castor oil, we have had Messrs. Sherley's Lubrol recommended very strongly as keeping the "works" of the cat in good order without the evils attending strong purgatives. Particulars of this and other medicines will be found in Messrs. Sherley's little illustrated booklet, "Hints to Cat Lovers"—a very cheap threepennyworth. Others agree as to the usefulness of olive oil or the oil from sardines. As regards castor oil, none of its devotees have come to its defence, but some agree that its use is not always beneficial. It is recommended for use in ear canker (externally) by Sir Claud Alexander.

WE thought we were acquainted with every breed of cat, but the "giant" cat is unknown to us. In a contemporary appears—appropriately enough from Ireland—the following advert.: "Wanted, kitten, male, neuter, giant breed."

WE mentioned the mysterious disappearances of two cats sent by rail. In the case of the kitten which was sent to Guernsey in a box with another cat, and never arrived, we gather that as it was insured it will be paid for. The other case of a spotted kitten sent to us, in lieu of which we received a black kitten, has occupied, and is still occupying the railway detectives. Railway officials say they have never known such a case. It seems such a fool's game to take out one cat and substitute another, as this proves the fact of "dirty work" whereas had the good cat simply been taken and the package left half open the loss would have been put down to defective packing. This kitten was not insured; but in view of the fact that the officials at the despatching station specially noticed the spotted kitten, and those at this end the black one, we gather that the company will pay. These occurrences, however, make one apprehensive as to what may happen to cats sent by rail. Formerly one used to be able to insure live stock at the rate of 3d. per £. Every official handling such a package had to obtain the signature of the next to whom he handed it. Thus a complete check was obtainable. We believe that now live stock cannot be thus insured—though we think some railway clerks yet do it, against regulations—but one can declare excess value at the same rates; we doubt, however, if the same check on those handling the packages is thus obtained.



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SPRATT'S Cat Foods

MISS COCHRANE is feeling very sad. Her dear old Ch. Chelsea Twilight was found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the kidneys, and had to be put to sleep.

A LITTLE PERSON IN A FUR CLOAK.

By TOM LEON.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

When I first realised the extraordinary wealth of affection locked up within the breast of the unappreciated household cat, I stood amazed. This unattractive, uncared-for creature, introduced into the home that she might act as a mouse-trap that required no setting, spoken of with contempt and dislike as cruel, treacherous, thieving, and destructive, was frightened off if it showed its nose in the reception-rooms, as something unfit to be admitted into polite society (though the dog was an honoured and pampered pet). I, then a lonely, unhappy, child, noticed one day pussy's sad aspect, and, drawn to it by sympathising pity, I spoke words of kindness and love, and softly stroked its dusky fur. To my surprise, the response was instant. Rising on its hind-legs to meet my down-bent head, it gave me a loving caress. Then cried and sang alternately, as if trying to tell me of its new-found hope that I would be its friend, and bestow on it the human love for which its pussy soul hungered. This was the beginning of a friendship that never wavered. Pussy came to me to solve all her difficulties and

troubles, from opening a door to nursing her when dying. She treated me as her god, giving me an adoring devotion, which made me blush for my unworthiness. She laid at my feet all her spoils of the chase, ere she would partake of them; perhaps with some dim idea that they thus became consecrated, for I think she regarded me as being above such material needs as food and drink. Her precious babies, too, were daily brought for my blessing, so long as their infancy enabled her to carry the helpless little beings. When I was ill, she scarcely left my side. My bedroom was upstairs, where pussy was not allowed, but she quickly discovered my lurking-place, and found a path of her own thereto, by means of a great pear tree trained up the wall that bounded my open window. Day after day she would sit and sing to me, or wipe away my tears with her soft furry face. Nothing caused her to forget me, or fail to bring me daily offerings. I can never thank her sufficiently for the comfort she afforded in my lonely childhood.

But it often puzzled me when I reflected that I was the only person in the circle I knew to whom pussy was truly visible; and that so sweet a soul could live in so complete a disguise. Later experience, and personal friendship with very many cats, has taught me to think that in almost every feline form there is a wonderful capacity for love, only awaiting the mystic touch of sympathy to reveal its treasures. That so few have uncovered it, is not only strange, but sad.

When I think of pussy's humble cloak that so effectually veils her beauty from all but the few, I am reminded how the great God Thor was deceived about the "household cat" shown to him by the Jotuns. There it lay, purring on the hearth, to all appearance an ordinary grey tabby, the plaything of the giant's children. Thor, challenged to lift it, thought to prove his strength at an easy task, and throw poor puss ceiling high as a thing of nought. But the Thunderer's effort only made the cat arch her back slightly; then, as he tried again, she unbent a little more, and, finally, when he desperately put forth all his powers, he succeeded in lifting one of her paws.

The Jotun later told him how he had been fooled by false appearance. For the gentle grey tabby was no mere cat, but the world-encircling Midgard serpent herself, and Thor had come nigh to committing irreparable harm in his light-hearted sporting enthusiasm to raise the enormous coil.

"Some have entertained angels unawares." Let us learn to look within the furry cloaks of "the little people" who make their homes among us.

(Editorial Note.—The above little story is by a very well-known author; but being a piece of personal history a *nom-de-plume* is used.)

NEWBURY CAT CLUB.

Schedules for the Reading Cat Show will be sent next week to all exhibitors whose names are in the catalogues of shows held since Reading last year. It is possible, however, that several exhibitors may have been omitted, also that changes of address may prevent proper delivery. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Fosbery, Blacknest, Brimpton, Berks., Tel. 3 "Heath End," will at once send a Schedule if applied for. Unfortunately a great many of the short-haired classes are still unguaranteed. An excellent classification has been given, but many of the classes starred in the Schedule will have to be cancelled unless further help is forthcoming or the entries are good. The judges are all popular: Miss Lea, Mr. Western, Mr. House, and Mr. Ambrose. Cheap return tickets at 4s. 9d. each can be obtained from Paddington.

A correspondent writes (and we heartily agree): "I know dogs are popularly held to be more intelligent than cats; but I honestly believe it is only because dogs have for centuries been treated in a comradely manner by man, whilst only recently is the cat, in Europe at any rate, beginning to come into its own. My little cat hates going to the V.S. He generally sends his assistant for her in a car, and after her first visit, whenever the car stopped here, Tabitha would suddenly disappear under my bed. I thought she recognised the sound of the car, but recently the messenger came on foot. Tabitha was on my window-sill—a room upstairs on the first floor. She must have seen the man crossing the road, and next moment had disappeared into her usual hiding-place."

THAME SHOW. SEPTEMBER 15th, 1927.

What ought to have been a very enjoyable Show was robbed of its glory by the torrential rain which came down almost incessantly all day. The exhibitors who braved the elements are to be congratulated, and we do not attach any blame to those who did not attend on this occasion. The sun refused to shine, which made the light very poor for judging. Mr. Western succeeded very well in enlivening us in our arduous duties, contending, as we were, with darkness overhead and dampness underfoot. There were about 60 entries; out of this one must deduct a considerable number of absentees owing to the elements. I think all those who did attend were satisfied with the awards. I was greatly struck by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's Blue Female, Dame Hannah of Hendon, and also her exquisite Black, Meranise, with her glorious eyes and her silken coat of raven black, both of whom, I feel sure, we shall hear of again at the forthcoming shows. Mistress Puss was a source of great attraction to visitors throughout the day.

L.H. CLASSIFICATION.

Judge, Mrs. Fosbery.

OPEN BLUE, MALE, ADULT—1, Nurse Nicholls, Cupid of Callow; 2, Miss George, no name; 3, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Hendon Fairfax. BLUE FEMALE—1, Miss George, no name; 2, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Hendon Blue Hannah; 3, Miss George, no name. BLUE KITTENS, M.—1, Miss George, Berwick; 2, Lady Eardley Wilmot, Prince Peter of Henley; 3, Miss George, Bunkered. BLUE KITTENS, F.—1, Mrs. Franklin, Sparkling Gem; 2, Mrs. Peak, Speedwell Linnet; 3, Mrs. Franklin, My Mimi. A.O.C., MALES—No entries. A.O.C., F.—1, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Meranise. A.O.C., KITTENS—1, Mrs. McClure, Hellington Black Jester; 2, Mrs. Groom, no name; 3, Mrs. Baker, John. A.C., BREEDERS—1, Mrs. McClure, Hellington Black Jester; 2, Nurse Nicholls, Danny Blue; 3, Mrs. Spencer, Ceirives. A.C., NEUTERS—1, Mrs. Pierce, no name; 2, Mrs. Baker, Peter.

SHORT HAIR CLASSIFICATION.

A.C., ADULTS—1, Miss Mellor, Alice Hawthorn; 2, Mrs. Jackson, Bilateena; 3, Mr. Kuhnel, no name. A.C. KITTEN, M.—1, Miss George's Siamese; 2, Mr. Kuhnel's Silver Tabby. A.C. KITTEN, F.—1, Mr. Western, Rosa; 2, Miss George's Siamese; 3, Mr. Kuhnel's Red Tabby. A.C., BREEDERS—1, Mr. Western, Rosa.

SPECIALS.

Silver Medal for best in Show—Nurse Nicholls, Cupid of Callow; who also won the Diploma for best male exhibit. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser won Diploma for best female exhibit with her black female, Meranise. Miss George won Diploma for best kitten in Show with her male kitten, Berwick.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY.

"I am very glad the paper flourishes, it ought to do great things."—(Mrs.) Alice M. Kidd (Carlsholton).

"I want to say how I like 'Cat Gossip,' and I think the Fancy are much indebted to you for all the trouble you take with it."—(Mrs.) Lorna Burke, (Chelsea).

"I think 'Cat Gossip' is steadily improving, and is of very great general interest."—(Miss) Nancy Richardson (Otford).

"Everyone I speak to enjoys 'Cat Gossip,' and several people read every word, even though they do not go in for breeding."—(Mrs.) M. Estelle Oglethorpe.

"I enjoy 'Cat Gossip' very much, and look forward to it each week . . . it is so enterprising."—(Mrs.) Stella Merz (Kensington).

DEATH.

September 12.—*Sasha*, dear, faithful heart, aged four years. (N.R.)

READING CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1927.

Entries Close October 14th (Friday).
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SALISBURY SHOW.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th,
IN THE MARKET HOUSE.**

Judge, Mr. F. B. Roberts (Croydon).

Prize Money: 12/-, 6/-, 3/- Entry Fee, 2/-

CAT CLASSES.

- Class 72.—A.V. Long Hair, adult.
- Class 73.—A.V. Long Hair, under six months.
- Class 74.—A.V. Short Hair, adult.
- Class 75.—A.V. Short Hair, under six months.

The Southern Counties' Cat Club Offer a Silver Coffee Spoon for Best Cat, open to all. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser Offers Silver Coffee Spoon for Best Kitten, open to all.

Schedules from the Hon. Secretary,
E. ASHLEY HOLMAN, Downton, Salisbury.
Entries Close 3rd October.

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 15 insertions 3/4 inch; 15 and upwards 2/9 inch. Standing Advs. of Cat Clubs, 35 words, 2/6. Sales, Wants, &c., 1d. per word, minimum 1/6.

PORTRAITS. Cats standing at Stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and postage. Block becomes property of owner. Portrait may be repeated within the year for inclusive fee of One Guinea. For Cats not advertised at Stud the Portrait Fee with Block will be 2/-

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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