

CAT · GOSSIP

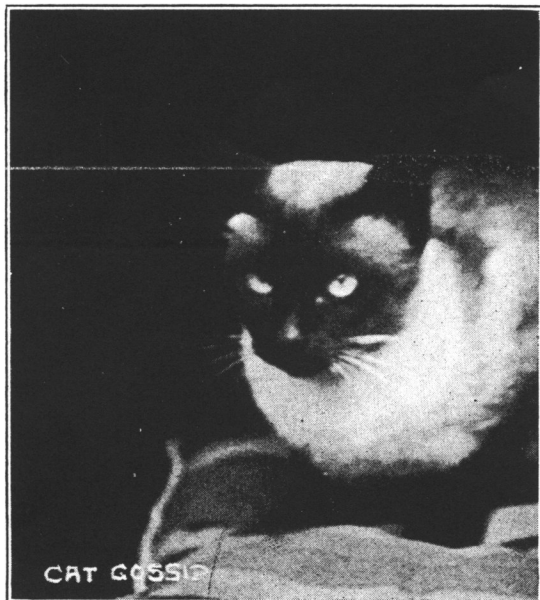
VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 45

OCTOBER 12th, 1927

Price 3d., post free



MRS. ELLABY'S SIAMESE, "PRINCESS CLEO."

A GOOD CLUB SHOW PERFORMANCE.

MRS. ELLABY'S Siamese queen, Princess Cleo, whose portrait appears above, covered herself with glory at the late Club Show, when Mr. Yeates wrote of her:—"Mrs. Ellaby's Princess Cleo won in the brood queen class, and was undoubtedly the heroine of the day; 1st in brood queens, 1st in team, dam of Ch. Simple (best cat in Show), grand-dam of Simzo (1st prize male adult), dam of Marko (best kitten in Show) and Fairo 1st female kitten, 3-6 months). What a record!" She also took the "Britannia" Cup. She is a very affectionate pet, and a most perfect mother. She was bred by Mrs. Gadsden in 1920, and sired by Chula-Longkorn.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

Mrs. Ellaby writes that Marko, the Siamese Club Show sensation, has left for his new home in Devon, where, with a family famous for their love of animals, and free from shows and pens, she hopes he may, like his two predecessors, live to be sixteen years old. Reading Show date altered, we hear, to 25th inst.



MRS. CRAN.

[Block by courtesy of *Animals*.

MRS. CRAN, President of Croydon Cat Club, Committee Siamese Cat Club, Member S.H.C.S., etc. First exhibited 1912. Daughter of the late Rev. H. E. Dudley, of Northampton. Born in Cape Colony. Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. Favourite animal, the cat; favourite breed, Siamese. Other hobbies: Travelling and gardening (the "Mrs. George Cran" rose was named after her). Author of "The Life of Beerbohm Tree" (her first book). "The Garden of Ignorance," "The Garden of Experience," "The Story of my Ruin" (results of her observations during a tour made as envoy through South Africa, Rhodesia, Australasia, New Zealand, and Canada, to report on conditions of immigration for the Imperial Association), "The Song of a Woman" (poems), "Gardens of the Empire," etc., etc. For 13 years Hon. Secretary of the Poets' Club, Sub-Editor of "The Connoisseur" 1901-2, Sub-Editor "The Burlington Magazine" 1903-4, Garden Editor "The Queen." Founder of The Garden Club, Mayfair. Assistant Secretary Imperial Association for Disabled Officers 1916-19. Broadcasts from 2LO fortnightly "Garden Talks."

IN-BREEDING SIAMESE.

By MARION CRAN.

I was most unhappily prevented from coming to the Siamese Cat Club's Show, at Philbeach Hall, this year. I was the guest of a charming lady in a very charming house; but never again will I venture to be a guest when the show of my favourite cats is due; for, held with silken cords, I was a prisoner. I wandered about for days ahead, showing the an-

nouncements of the coming show; up to the last moment I hoped I might beguile my very dear and attractive hostess to the place where my heart was. But she did not go to London; so how could I?

The result was that "Cat Gossip" assumed enormous proportions in my mind, and to-day, since the postman delivered it, I have been browsing on the reports with a desperate sort of homesickness. I wonder if Miss Busted, and Mrs. Basnett, and Mrs. Wade, and all the other pleasant Siamese friends could feel my spirit among them—disembodied, vital with sympathy and interest, and dumb?

On page 106 of issue 43 of our cat journal I found a most significant comment on the mark Champion Bonzo has made on present show stock. Let me quote: "Of the 207 entries 67 were of his (Bonzo's) get; and these 67 obtained 50 cards, including 13 firsts. The male championships winner, Simzo, and Marko, the best in show, were sired by Bonzo, this being the second year in succession his progeny have achieved these distinctions. Simzo has now won his third champion certificate, and is a full champion. Simple obtained her fourth certificate. Put in a nutshell, Bonzo progeny made up one third of the entry, and scored two thirds of the obtainable first prizes, and all the cards in the class for breeders' female kittens." A most amazing record!

I admire Bonzo. I believe—but correct me, Mr. Lewis, if I am wrong—that I gave Bonzo his first championship. Yet I see a peril ahead of us in this splendid prepotency of his.

Siamese cats are in my experience peculiarly averse to in-breeding; goats are also liable to re-act adversely to it. Any reader who has seriously bred herd-book stock will know how true that is. I would like, therefore, to utter a word of warning to those many novices who have but newly come into our delightful Siamese world. Every novice desires to start with the best type; the probability is that many will buy Bonzo's get, and proceed (worthily) to arrange matings with the prevailing champion sires. (This is a nervous business, Mr. Editor, writing this article of mine!) I am the last to wish to divert good golden guineas from the studs to which they should go. But I would like to register my fear that the novice breeder will forget to study the pedigree of his or her young queen to the excellent degree. It were better, believe me, to breed the glorious type which Bonzo has established into strange blood for a generation or two, and so preserve the constitution, without which no breed, however fashionable, can hope to survive in popular esteem. And quite rightly. For while we desire to preserve and cherish in our houses cats of the uttermost beauty, we owe it to their happiness, and ours, that they shall be healthy too. The stud advertisements of "Cat Gossip" will help the novice to find outside blood; I speak from long experience and from a deep-rooted desire to see the finest breed of cat in all the world keep its paramount position in the esteem of the public, at last thoroughly awake to its charms.

(We quite appreciate the delicacy of Mrs. Cran's position in writing this article, and shall welcome any replies to or comments thereon. It is our aim to make "Cat Gossip"—the first and only paper to inaugurate a Siamese column—the place in which Siamese breeders and lovers will eo ipso, and, as a matter of course, propound and interchange their views on all concerning their lovely breed.—Ed.)

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG THAI.

Mrs. Ellaby writes: "The future of Marko is yet undecided. If I keep him I shall have his portrait taken and inserted in 'Cat Gossip'; but I believe he is going merely as a pet."

Mrs. Basnett writes: "I see a funny printer's error in my report, making Ki-Weena 30 years old instead of 3 $\frac{3}{4}$! and in my hurry I said that the Breeders' Cup was awarded to Iamit, and it ought to have been Fairlight Gipsy."

Miss Benthall is now en route to Tangier—to get dry, we imagine, after her summer (?) stay on Saunton sands! Her Suki-Māna has now, by the sale of her kits, paid for the upkeep of a bed in a hospital for 1927, and has already half the cost for 1928 laid by. Miss Benthall pays us a handsome compliment, which we will strive to deserve, when she says "Some day we shall have a book of the Siamese Cat, and half the items in it will be from 'Cat Gossip.'"

Mrs. Veley is delighted with the portraits of her two cats in "Cat Gossip," and thinks "very cheap, and excellently reproduced." A word to the wise!

Miss Olive Stent, whose portrait, holding the Zoo's Clouded Leopard in her arms, we gave in "Animals," writes: "Siamese are such fascinating pets, so full of fun and so sensible. Ma Mie, my first Siamese, was passionately fond of my toy Pom, John, and when she had her first litter John was very interested indeed; on the second morning when we went in to visit her, Ma Mie promptly came out of her bed and rubbed round John, who stepped into the bed and washed all the babies; after that every morning John helped with their toilet. This must have pleased Ma Mie, as later when she wanted to go into the stables for mice she would bring the kittens one by one into the sitting-room and plant them in the corner of the Chesterfield, and depart, quite content to leave them all curled up with John." Nothing is prettier than a cat and dog friendship, and those misguided and stupid people who encourage or allow dogs to be hostile to cats would be severely dealt with if we had our way!

Mrs. Harvey has been persuaded by Mrs. Allen-Maturin to part with Harebell of Petaling, a very pretty female kitten. Mrs. Lewis, who recently purchased a male kitten by Datoh, to take to Bombay, writes of him that he "is adorable, and has the most loving disposition I have ever come across."



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SPRATT'S Cat Foods

Just as we are going to press we are grieved to hear that Mrs. Cran is ill; her engagement to speak at the Croydon Concert on Monday had, therefore, to be cancelled.

SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

My very dear friends and exhibitors, what can I say and how can I thank you for the most generous gift I received on the 4th inst. from Mrs. French. It so overcame me that at first I felt stunned to know what it meant. Indeed, it did not need this to tell me of your real appreciation of my efforts, but it comes at a time when things are particularly hard for me, and I feel it is good to know that I have such friends among you who give me such a wealth of love and true generosity, and, above all, such wonderful loyalty. It has warmed my heart to know of this, and to feel that such members of the Club are my real friends and so honestly appreciate what little I can do for them. Nothing has ever been a trouble to me where any of you are concerned, and I have tried to do the best I can both for the Club and the Show, and to know that you generous people realise this has more than helped me, and I also know that it is more than good of you to think of me, especially just now when the calls on each one of you will be so heavy now that the show season has begun, and, therefore, I appreciate all the more what you have done for me. I hope by degrees to

write to each one of you and to thank each one personally, but in the meantime please accept this with my warm-hearted thanks for all you have done in sending me such a generous gift and for what each one of you thinks of me.

Your most grateful Hon. Sec.,
E. C. BUSTEED.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

EXETER Show, October 26th. Judge, Mr. G. Drake. Seven L.H. Classes, three S.H., four L. or S.H., two Household Pets; two Radius. This looks worthy of exhibitors' attention. Entries close 14th inst., to Mr. Cornish, 90, Regent Street, St. Thomas, Exeter. WE SAW a very peculiar kitten last week, such as we have never seen before. Its colour much resembled that of a light liver-coloured spaniel—or cocoa-colour. Only on holding to a very good light could one see the slightly darker latent tabby pattern. It was evenly marked with white on belly and four paws. A male. If of interest to those who like colour-breeding experiments, apply Zoo Department, at Messrs. Gamage's, Holborn.

It is a curious coincidence that last Wednesday we mentioned in "Cat Gossip" that the belief in witches is not yet quite dead in England to-day, and on Thursday the "Daily Mail" reports that a speaker at the Church Congress, Mr. Eaton White,

of Boulge Hall, Suffolk, related instances of belief in the "evil eye," etc., and added: "Only a week or two ago I was assured that if bitten by a cat the sure means of avoiding evil consequences was to kill the cat!"

WE READ in "Chasse et Pêche" that the cinema star, Norma Talmadge, supports a Cats' Home in Hollywood at her own expense, and is always trying to alleviate the lot of the homeless ones. The Antwerp Society, "Les Amis du Chat," has made the "star" a member of honour in recognition of her work, and received from her a personal letter of thanks with a large signed portrait.

CROYDON (see advertisement) schedules are now in printer's hands. The judges of this most popular fixture are: Blacks and Whites, Captain Powell; Blues, Mrs. Stephen; Chins. and Household Pets, Miss Adams; Red, Cream, Torties, Mrs. Forsyth Forrest; Smokes, Silver T., Abyssinians, Mr. House; Siamese, Mrs. Cran; other S.H., Mr. Norris; Referee Judge, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser.

MISS WALLACE-DUNLOP, writing to announce her departure for Italy, observes: "'Cat Gossip' is a delightful and very original little paper."

YOUR CATTY NEWS, PLEASE!

LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

The following are the promised notes of the Misses Browne and Baylis' Cattery at Bournemouth. The two fine blue studs are Jasper of Hadley and Blue Beau of Bournemouth; Laird, the third blue boy, bred by Mrs. Gentle, and a winning kitten at Reading (1924, I believe), has been made a neuter, and would make a delightful pet. Jasper was bred by Mrs. Newton, of Correnden, and does his breeder credit. Blue Beau is the same breeding as Miss Longley's Blue Robin (the late). Impie of Bournemouth, an exquisite little queen, has just lately presented her owners with a litter of males by Blue Beau, and, I expect to the kittens' secret delight, a purchaser fell in love with them as a family, and transported them "en masse" to their new home, so they still romp together. Miss Browne, unfortunately, is not in the best of health, but her very capable friend is able to look after all the pets, as well as a team of Pekingese dogs. Bournemouth Show is soon coming along, and those of us who do not know this beautiful town, well named Queen of the West, should avail ourselves of the opportunity.

Wednesday, October 19th, will be the date of the next meeting of the G.C.

Hampton-on-Thames, as most readers know, is a picturesque part of the world, the old Manor House was dismantled by Wolsey, the bricks being used by him in the building of Hampton Court; subterranean passages have been discovered of late years, and

romance walks hand in hand with rural beauty. It is quite fitting that here should be found a dainty tennis pavilion, skilfully converted into the Coryton Cattery: here, in their verandahs comfortably seated on wicker chairs, Betty and Frolic of Coryton (some time of Langherne fame), the dainty Chinchillas, chaperoned by the red Sister Beatrice, and escorted by the handsome blue neuter, Mons. Jack, will watch a game of tennis, and give a glance of approval to the humans who in their turn are "running after a ball." The pavilion is lighted by electricity, which can be switched on from the house. A young Chinchilla female, several sturdy red kittens, and two broad-headed baby Chins. by Peter of Aldwych, complete this Fancy in its delightful setting.

Mrs. McMullen (Lanark) must be pleased with the record of the blue male kitten she purchased from Mrs. Gilbert; he has been five times shown—at Biggar, Carluke, Carnwath, Milnathort, and Lanark. At every show he won first prize, specials at two shows, and at Milnathort he was best cat in show. Mrs. McMullen intends keeping him as a mate for her lovely pale kitten, bred from her Buzz Buzz queen and Colneside Carol. Raoul's sire is Lancashire Blue Jacket, and he is a sweet cat, just as he was a sweet kitten.

At the Black and White meeting I was very pleased to see Mrs. Glenfield about again looking like herself after her severe and serious illness; her cattery of "round heads" (as I always call them, for they really have the shortest of noses and roundest of heads), are all very well, and their mistress, to whom they are all real friends is glad to be back amongst them once more. Viking has been cared for by Mr. Driver during Mrs. Glenfield's illness, and is looking in fine fettle. Eight or nine years is quite the age of a juvenile in this cattery. Mrs. Glenfield must have a gift of longevity in her fingers—but no—love of her pets is the secret.

A fellow-traveller, as I went to Thame Show a short while ago, told me that he had had what he called his happy family—a cat, a dog, a parrot, and a monkey—who were all on the best of terms. The monkey constituted himself the policeman—kept guard over his three friends, and "pinches" would be the punishment of any mischievous boy who tried to molest any of them. Another very sweet story of friendship between animals you will read in this week's Siamese columns. Apropos of friendship, Mrs. Aubrey gave Miss Langston that sweet Chinchilla, Langherne Rose, who had a wonderful quintette of babies by Gimlette of Pittchar, and as an expression of gratitude for her kind gift Miss Langston has given a boy of the quintette to join the Langherne Cattery.

At a Committee Meeting, held on October 6, 1927, Miss Lea was elected to run the coming Ch. Show of the Southern Counties' Cat Club. It will be the fourth year she has undertaken to manage this, the largest Show of the year.

Will readers send in words to play upon the name of this paper—C.G. Thus—Contains Goodness.

Mrs. Sydney Evans is at the moment much distressed—her young cream stud, Jan o' the Coombe, has in playing scratched his tail, and a certain amount of poison is causing trouble, though Jan is quite well otherwise.

CROYDON CAT CLUB.

GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW,
CENTRAL BATHS HALL, CROYDON,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1927.

Entries Close October 26th.

Hon. Sec., MISS HELEN HILL-SHAW,

15, Elgin Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey.

READING CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1927.

Entries Close October 14th (Friday).

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BIRTHS.

Miss Grayton's **Daphne**, on September 12th, three kittens to **Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet**.

Miss Grayton's **Roseanna**, on September 20th, four kittens to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Alexis**.

Miss Grayton's **Romulus Kirsty (Teanie)**, on October 1st, six kittens to Miss George's **Flick-a-Maroo**.

Mrs. Johnson's **Mirza De Chin-Chin**, five kittens, by **Bishop's Zatzo**, August 31st (Siamese). **Noreen of Crickmere**, three kittens (blue) by **Champion Dixie-Land-Zeo of Crickmere**, September 23rd. **Sapphire of Runnymede**, September 28th, three kittens by **Champion Dixie-Land-Zeo of Crickmere** (blues). Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

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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 21/-.

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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