

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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A STRANGE FOSTER-CHILD.

The cat—that personification of motherhood—has been known to rear almost everything. Puppies, rats, hares, rabbits, squirrels, have all been brought up by cat foster-mothers. Cats are now used on a large scale on American silver-fox farms to rear the cubs. Thirty years ago, at a Botanic Gardens cat show, we exhibited the Abyssinian Chelsworth Peaty, suckling a young ferret, which greatly interested the then Princess of Wales. The present instance is, however, the only one in which we have heard of an otter being reared by a cat. They were the property of Mr. H. Dennis, of Ryde. The two otter cubs were found in an old tree by two lads, and placed on the cat; one died of a surfeit of rabbit when weaned, the surviving cub with the cat were sent to Mr. Dennis, who writes in the Year Book of the Amateur Menagerie Club: "It was passionately devoted to its foster-mother. I put them in a specially constructed house, letting the cat out for exercise in the evening, during which time the otter would whistle plaintively for her return.

EMBARRASSING AFFECTION.

"When the cat re-entered the cage she was

greeted with loving embraces from her very wet foster-child, as she emerged from a swim in her tank." The otter was also very playful with a large Alsatian.

The block for the accompanying picture was kindly lent us by Mr. G. Tyrwhitt Drake, the celebrated private menagerie proprietor and secretary of the Amateur Menagerie Club.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

The Midland Show, I hear from Mr. Yeend, is to be held, after all, at Worcester, as no suitable hall could be found at Bristol; this will simplify things for Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey, who always work so indefatigably for the M.C.C.; Mrs. Yeend herself is the hon. secretary.

The Bredon Cattery is filling up with youngsters; Yveen has five lovely kittens, three males and two females; by the way, this handsome blue queen is by Milord o' Mendip, and some of the babes will no doubt grace the boards later. I am hoping to meet Mrs. Yeend at Reading October 25th, and expect she will be showing that promising Mab of Bredon, winning cream kitten at Sandy in August. This kitten was bred by Mrs. Richardson, from Norma of Bredon.

With our first Ch. Show drawing so close it may interest my readers to know of the Ship Hotel, Reading, in the Market Place, within a stone's throw of the Corn Exchange. I stayed there myself, and found it most comfortable; otherwise, for exhibitors who prefer to go upon the day, a cheap ticket is available from Paddington.

AUSTRALIA'S ACQUISITION.

Whatmer, winner of Red Tabby Championship, under Mrs. B. H. Soame, at the Southern Counties' Show last January, has sailed for Australia. He is a younger brother of Miss E. M. Hill's present Red Tabby Stud, Galdorn, and was bred by her from Ch. Shazada and Ch. Princess Salyana. Whatmer was born on April 10th, 1925, and was a most striking kitten. I always admired his skull, which was superb. A fine photo of him appeared in "Cat Gossip" August 31st, with list of some of his chief wins. He sailed on October 8th, and is due in Sydney November 16th. Mrs. Soame recommended him to our Australian cousins, and he will, no doubt, do much to

improve type and colour out there. Miss E. H. Hill loves her cats, and found it very difficult to part with Whatmer, for he was a most dear fellow. Not having the best of health, she found her hands too full. The Galdorn Cattery contains some pretty blue torties, and several red and cream kittens, all first-class breeding stock: the pity is with such good kits, Miss Hill is not well enough to attend any but a few of our London Shows.

We may hope soon to see our cats reproduced in their natural colours by the "direct colour cinematograph film." I had a recent letter from the firm with regard to this branch of the cinema art, and if some of the Hendon cats make no objection to studio requirements, they may be seen by the world at "continuous play"! later on.

Nurse M. B. Jones writes: "It is any years ago since we had our last blue Persian kittens, but I remember the late Miss Frances Simpson bought several of them, and they won some first prizes for her, of which exploit we felt very proud. Now Dinky Blue Girlie has one boy and two girls. The boy and one of the girls I shall have to part with, for my life is too busy for me to indulge in many pets, but these kittens are such darlings, with such lovely eyes, that I must keep a girl for myself and a play-fellow for Dinky."

Mrs. E. H. Elliot (Nantwich) is always awfully kind about our paper, and the following pleasant news comes from her pen: "A word of praise for our 'cat paper' will not be out of place at any time, and I think it grows more interesting week by week, and has the merit of being entirely original. Congratulations, Editor! Now to my cattery: My litter of six fine kittens by Ch. Billy Bumpet's son, Rigside Norman, are now ready to leave the mother, and, like the little pigs in the old fairy tale, must soon go out into the world to seek their fortunes. I don't think I have ever owned a more lovable litter, for at the sound of my footstep they tumble over each other to see who can reach me first; and would not one expect a weakling out of six in one family? Yet there is only one ounce in weight between the least and the most! They all turn the scale at 2lbs., and some attain 2lbs. 2ozs. Considering that, having such a large litter, I had to feed with Lactol from nine days old, this size is wonderful I think, and it's all been done with a fountain pen filler! Indeed, they only began feeding voluntarily a fortnight ago. How they enjoy oatmeal, rice, fish, boiled rabbit, and macaroni, like grown-ups! and the life and vigour of them speaks for itself. Two I hope to keep for show. They have huge coats, with immense round heads and big eyes. Son o' Flick is growing his new coat fast. It will be as fine and pale in colour as his father's I do believe; in fact, he is exactly like his father, both in looks and ways, having the most lovable disposition imaginable. And among all the controversy I have seen in contemporary papers about Flick-a-Maroo, no one has gainsaid his disposition, which,

for a stud cat, is, to my personal knowledge, absolutely wonderful. Au 'voir.

WEEKLY ENQUIRIES.

Miss Langhorne writes to-day: "I do wish some one could explain what has caused this epidemic of 'open-eyed' kits among my previously normal and healthy queens?"

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE OBSERVE a contemporary passes on to cat owners the advice given by a fancy mouse breeder, to feed rats and mice to cats. Here again we have an instance of the truth of the old adage about a little knowledge being a dangerous thing. To prove we are not writing at random we will mention that for many years we were the largest breeders of fancy rats in the country—it took us about seven years, and the breeding of some 2,000 animals, to produce a specimen of Bleck-Eyed White Rat (now in British Museum) alone, besides other varieties, and we are acknowledged authorities on rats, of which we have discovered two new sub-species. Now, as we lately mentioned, mice make some cats sick; we also, when we kept martens (Pine and Beech), found they usually were sick if they ate wild rats. Fancy mice and rats bred for exhibition are usually kept in excellent condition, well fed, and unhealthy ones promptly weeded out; though some strains are addicted to "wasting" (tuberculosis) and malignant tumours. Still, if anyone cares to breed mice to provide their cats with *bonnes bouches*, and takes care they are kept healthy, we do not say no. Mice bought at dealers' shops are frequently tuberculous. But as regards **wild** rats and mice (in our young days we loved ratting with dogs and ferrets, and have handled thousands, and **know**) we repeat our warning. These rodents are subject to **worms, tumours, cysts, ringworm, mange, eczema, tuberculosis**. So that's that! Now do as you like about it. But remember there is also the risk of **POISON**, and in this connection we shall soon have the abominable Rat Week upon us, when, as V.S. admit, hundreds of dogs and cats die, and others contract lingering illnesses, some from eating poisoned rats and mice, others from eating poisons direct; for these may be carried by rats, mice, or sparrows, and dropped in **your** garden or your poultry-run, from your neighbour's premises. Healthy mice, we agree, are a good food for all small carnivora. Rabbits, too; we shoot some hundreds every year; but they are full of tapeworm; **never** give intestines! Sparrows are excellent; starlings very frequently cause vomition. **Alas!** the beautiful Siamese kitten, Harebell of Petaling, whose purchase by Mrs. Allen-Maturin we recorded last week, is already dead! Mrs. Maturin adds: "I much approved of Mrs. Cran's letter, and I had contemplated writing on the same subject myself."—Miss Noble's Siamese, Beachcomber, enters our stud columns. Siamese column next week, News, please!

pleased all, and also for her own artistic contributions. She was three times recalled and presented by the committee with a small token of their affection. It is to be hoped the result will be worthy of her own and the committee's efforts. The weather, even in its tardy fit of repentance, felt obliged to show a sting in its tail in the shape of threatened fog, which doubtless kept many from the Hall that would otherwise have been present. Those staunch friends of the Croydon Fancy who came such distances as from Kew, Hendon, Hampstead, and Kent, it is sincerely hoped reached their homes without serious inconvenience. Many who could not come bought tickets in support of the cause. The artistes without exception, deserved the appreciation they received. The violin and piano duet of Miss Valerie and Miss Eileen Tunbridge, and the violin solos in the second part, were eagerly followed, enjoyed, and encored. Miss Olive Grove's "Blind Girl's Song," exquisitely sung, brought her a well-deserved recall, and "Danny Boy" completed her conquest of her audience. Miss Freda Townson's lovely contralto voice and expressive rendering of her songs, "In the Silent Night" and "Wait," the latter by Guy d'Hardelot, stirred all hearts. Mr. Walter Fennel, after his fine robust singing of "Eleanore," by Coleridge Taylor, without any fuss stepped into the breach made by the enforced absence of Mrs. Crau (nothing but doctor's orders would have deterred her from fulfilling her promise), and by his "Songs at the Piano" soon diverted the minds of his listeners from their disappointment. Miss Muriel Hudson showed complete command of her art in varied recitations, and Miss Lesley Bamford gave much pleasure by her talented interpretations of Pouishnoff's "Quand il pleut" and Palmgren's "Night in May" and "En Route." The audience were most appreciative, naturally, for where would one expect to find quick response and sympathy if not from animal lovers. Perhaps it is an unconventional thing to remark upon, but it cannot be denied that the artistes charmed the eye as well as the ear. Behind the scenes Mrs. Jepson supplied dainty and substantial fare, and kept the performers refreshed and sustained. There was much hard work done by other members of the committee, notably that martyr to work, Miss Hill Shaw. May the result reward them. In conclusion, why was not Beachcomber presented with a ticket for the concert? In his own inimitable way he is again booming "Cat Gossip."

Amongst those present I noticed Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Carew Cox, Mrs. Kidd, Mr. and Mrs. O. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Jepson and Mr. Peter Jepson, Mr. and Mrs. Oglethorpe, Mrs. Yeates, Miss Adams, Miss Atkinson, Miss Heywood, Miss Steer, Mrs. and Miss Campbell-Fraser, Mrs. Catermole, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Miss Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Waber, the Misses Hill-Shaw, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Whicher, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Wooff. Mr. Cranton kindly took office at the door.

R. GREY.

ON FADS AND ECCENTRICITIES.

The fads and eccentricities to which I propose to refer are those of the stomach. There has been some correspondence of late, both in our columns and elsewhere, about the individuality of cats. Those who make friends and pets of their cats are well aware of a fact which is unknown and unguessed at by the general public, as also by those fanciers, few I trust in number, who simply keep their cats in cages, and as long as they win and produce saleable kittens, are quite satisfied; and that is, that there is quite as much individuality in properly treated cats as there is in human beings; and more so than in the dog. This is but natural, the cat always preserving his proper ego intact, whilst the dog sinks his to a great extent in that of his owner. (This is one reason why the more independent canines, such as the wolf, the dingo, and the virile Esquimaux, always possessed the greatest charm for me.) There is much individuality to be found in cats' stomachs also, just as in human beings.

OLD SAWS RIGHT—AND WRONG.

Most of us are acquainted with instances in human beings, whose internal economies flatly contradict the old saying, "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," whilst upholding that other one relative to "one man's meat." Cases such as that of a former kennelman of mine, who could be trusted with anything but the cod liver oil bottle; who would make pancakes with cod liver oil and then eat them with jam! or that of a relative of mine who can eat lots of Cornish or Devon cream, but who would be violently sick if she touched a piece of butter the size of a little finger nail, or even partook of pastry made with butter—certainly may be ranked under the heading of gastric fads or eccentricities. And such are to be found amongst cats also; which fact must always be taken into consideration, for it may be that a certain cat is incapable of digesting (even if eaten) a certain food which would suit ninety-nine out of a hundred. A liking for tomatoes, watercress, pears, and so forth, may be described as a personal eccentricity on the part of some cats. I have known cats which would invariably be instantly and violently sick after eating a mouse, which, nevertheless, they would always eat greedily if they caught one; others, again, will never eat the mice they catch. Some cats simply cannot digest cod, however well cooked. A cat I have now is very fond of brown bread and butter, but it makes him bilious, and he evidently suffers from acidity or sourness of the stomach from it, and keeps on bringing up watery foam. Lungs (or "lights") again will not be digested by some cats. Instances like these, where noted, must be reckoned with, as they plainly prove that "one cat's meat is another cat's poison."

Whilst on the subject of "tummies": I should like to recommend weak tea, made with sugar and milk, for cats, both in very damp weather, and also when their stomachs seem affected by great summer



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heat (such a state of things really has existed in the long long ago!). They get very fond of it, and I am sure it is beneficial. I used to find my imported Esquimaux dogs suffer greatly from summer heat, which upset their insides, and they drank lots of tea, and benefited from it.

Another tip, which I owe to Mr. Woof, the popular V.S., who officiates at Croydon Show. He is a great believer in administering a little whisky to cats on their return from a show, to settle the stomach and ward off chills. As most cats object to taking it, he advises wetting the hands with it and dabbing it on the cat, who is sure to lick it off.

I have two inquiries about "snuffles," which, I fear, will be rampant this winter amongst cats and their owners. Personally I am a great believer in "Nostroline" for both; it has saved me from many a chill; dabbed well into the nostrils before going out in the cold or exposing one's self to infection from others in public conveyances and the like. Sneezing, or snuffling, should never be neglected; it is very infectious, and if allowed to develop into chronic nasal catarrh, well nigh incurable. "Snuffly" baby kits in nine cases out of ten are best put away. A complete change of air will sometimes work wonders. I should be loth to breed from a "snuffly" cat, as the kittens will be sufferers ninety-nine times out of a hundred. Attend to general health; try tonics; keep dry and fairly snug, but allow fresh air; you can try various advertised remedies, always re-

membering what may cure one case may prove quite ineffectual in another.

H. C. B.

ANOTHER POPULAR CAT BOOK.

"Like London eggs, the Cat's value ranges from the sublime to the pathetic."

"Of the making of books there is no end," and the latest to interest us appears this week. "Your Cat: Its Care and Treatment," by Mr. A. de Bary-Saunders, is a little work we can thoroughly recommend to the novice cat-keeper, the one-cat owner, the budding fancier. It contains a remarkable amount of condensed information given in a simple practical form in its 86 pages, and a real love of the cat, common or otherwise, and good sound common-sense, characterise every page. It does not profess to teach the fancier, though such will surely want to read it. The seven chapters are illustrated with pictures of appliances and of typical cats, to wit: A cream L.H. of Miss Adye's; Blue Persian, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's; Siamese, Mrs. Veley's; S.H. brown tabby, tortie and white, Mr. J. Taylor's; blue, Miss Cochrane's; Abyssinian and Manx, Mr. H. C. Brooke's. Cat lovers in big towns who have no garden may be glad to learn that Messrs. Sutton and Sons, of Reading, have offered to send, gratis and post free, a packet of the right kind of grass seed so essential to cats' health, which may be grown in a box of earth. We note that the author advises

what we have so often advised, when, writing of administering medicine, he says "Cats that have from early kittenhood rehearsed 'medicine drill' with harmless drinks, will take real medicine more quietly."

A DESIRABLE SUPERSTITION.

In the chapter referring to the painless destruction of cats we are told, "In Thuringia* there is a popular superstition that drowning a cat brings seven years of ill-luck." We could wish that this superstition were rife in England, where thousands of cats and dogs are yearly drowned. Drowning is an abominable death, and should be forbidden by law except in an emergency. *Experto Crede!* We've been nearly drowned, and we know! We do not know whence the author learned that "Abyssinian cats with white are more popular in America than in England"—we never before heard this stated. The paragraph on poisons is good common sense, and we wish it could be broadcasted. Really a little book chock-full of information and interest to the general cat-loving public.

"Your Cat: Its Care and Treatment," by A de Bary-Saunders, author of "My Dog," Foulsham and Co., Ltd., 10, Red Lion Court, E.C. 4. Price 1s. net, post free 1s. 2d.

VISITS.

October 6th.—Miss Grant's **Ozuki**;
October 13th.—Mr. Pickard's Siamese queen, both to Mrs. Hindley's **Prestwick Puteh-Punya**.

The following from Mrs. H. Beard appeared in September "Cat Courier":

It would seem from different articles and opinions of breeders, that the female kittens produced from the black tortoiseshell queen when bred to a red or red tabby stud, are always tortoiseshells in colour.

Miss Winifred Adyes' article in the May "Courier" says this, however, is not so in England, for she has produced three red females of rich colouring and exceptional eye colour from different red studs and different tortoiseshell queens, though even in England this seems to have come only in comparative recent years, and is due to selective breeding. If so far in America, the female kittens have been invariably tortoiseshell from a tortie, and a red or red tabby stud, then from a recent breeding of a tortie queen to a colour bred red tabby stud. I must possess the exception to the rule, for I secured in a litter of three females from the matings, two good torties and one very lovely red tabby female with rich colouring and fine eye colour. I intend keeping one tortie and the red tabby female from the litter for experimental breeding purposes to learn if her possibilities of breeding are any different from that of her tortoiseshell sister.

I would be glad to hear from anyone who is interested and who has any theories on the breeding possibilities of the red tabby female kitten which seems to be such rare exception.

NEWBURY CAT CLUB.

READING, TUESDAY, 25th.

Over 240 exhibits without counting kittens in litter class have been entered for the Reading Show, and all points to a most successful fixture. Will exhibitors arrive as early as possible on day of Show? Judging will begin punctually; exhibitors who do not write warning me they may be a few minutes' late run the risk of having their exhibits marked absent. Specials—63, 64, 65, offered by the B.P.C.S., are given for best blue female, blue female kitten, and blue male kitten, each of which must have been bred by exhibitor. This is important, as the specials are given for the best in each variety, and not for the second best in the event of the first not having been bred by exhibitor. I have heard from Mr. Yeates that Mrs. Catermole offers a spoon for the owner securing most points in the white long-hair classes at Championship Shows during the Season, D.N.C.

F. M. FOSBERY, Hon. Sec.

BIRTHS.

September 7th.—Mrs. Hindley's **Dodo**, six kittens (five males);

September 12th.—Miss Castle's **Dank-Ban-Yen**, four kittens, both by Mrs. Hindley's **Prestwick Puteh-Punya**.

September 22nd.—Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk's **Wil-linda of Winchfield**, four fine kittens (three males) by **Milord o' Mendip**.

October 1st.—Same owners' **Diana of Winchfield**, five palest creams (all males) by **Ch. Shere Khan o' the Combe**.

COMICAL INTERLUDE AT MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

LADY PERFORMER'S ANTICS CONVULSE AUDIENCE.

THE "Chronicle" says: The dignified setting of a musical festival was transformed into the hilarious atmosphere of farce at Buxton recently by a cat and mouse. One of the competitors, Miss Boland, was seated at the piano on the platform of the Opera House, when she saw a mouse at her feet. She sprang up in alarm and called to Dr. Moody, the adjudicator, but before he could arrive the theatre cat rushed on to the stage and caught the mouse, with which it started to play. The audience roared with laughter as the accompanist climbed the chair, which at once collapsed. She then ran about the stage, but could not get away from the life-and-death struggle. When a steward came to the rescue she was crouched against the wall holding her skirt to her legs. The cat carried off its prey, thus making sure of a prize.

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BOURNEMOUTH OPEN SHOW,

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OPEN CAT SECTION. Nov. 2nd Only. Judge, Mrs. Yeates. Entry Fee, 2s. Prize Money, 10s., 5s., & 2s. 6d. Many Specials, including two by the Blue Persian Cat Society, three by the Southern Counties' Cat Club. When entering please state if member of the above Clubs. No duplicate entries will be accepted. Please enter from following schedule.

Please Note this Section will be held on Nov. 2nd only.

- 83 Litter (not over 3 months).
- 84 Blue Long-hair Kitten (3 to 8 months).
- 85 Siamese Kitten (3 to 8 months).
- 86 A.O.V. Kitten (3 to 8 months).
- 87 Long-hair Blue Persian Male.
- 88 Long-hair Blue Persian Female.
- 89 Siamese Male.
- 90 Siamese Female.
- 91 A.O.V. Long-hair, Male or Female.
- 92 A.V. Long-hair Neuter.
- 93 A.V. Short-hair Neuter.
- 94 Any Variety Household Pet. XX
- XX Entry Fee in this Class 1s. Prizes:
Bronze Medals for 1st and 2nd.

Entries definitely close October 21st.

Schedules of Poultry, Pigeon, and Rabbit Sections advertised in full in Specialist Papers, or obtainable from the Joint Hon. Secs., Messrs. THORNICROFT BROS., Tetworth Stock Farm and Appliance Works, Ferndown, Dorset.

CROYDON CAT CLUB.

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

Entries close October 26th.

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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.

READING CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.

TUESDAY, October 25th, 1927.

Hon. Sec., MRS. FOSBERY, Black Nest,
Brimpton, Berks. 'Phone 3, Heath End.

SIAMESE KITTENS, Two Males, six months, house-trained, lovely eyes: "Sunni-Ming," three reserves kitten classes S.C.C.S.; 5½ gns. Litter Brother, 4 gns. Orders booked, Males, six weeks, Ch. Simzo, ex Ninkame, 4 gns.—MRS. BURKE, 4, Swan Walk, Chelsea, Ken. 7551.

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