

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAI.

In view of the failure of the class provided for blue or chocolate-pointed Siamese at the Club Show, the following remarks, which appeared some years ago, will be of interest and new to many. The writer observes: "Sometimes such cats crop up only occasionally, and the parents which produce them once fail to do so again; but, on the other hand, some females especially make a habit of having blue-pointed kittens. Two queens which a friend, then in the Diplomatic Service, sent me from Siam, and which were **litter sisters**, supplied an example of this. One queen never had other than seal-pointed progeny, but her sister invariably had one or more blue-pointed kittens in each litter, no matter to what Siamese male she was mated. Then, again, some of the blue-pointed animals reproduced their own blue points with regularity, while others failed to do so even once. . . . I found that a blue-pointed male was much more valuable in the way of fixing the colour than a female of the same variety. When two unrelated blue-pointed cats were mated I had more disappointments than successes . . . and often enough two such cats persisted in giving nothing but seal-pointed kittens. Only slightly less of a failure was the mating of a blue-pointed brother and a blue-pointed sister, and the only really effective method was to mate a blue-pointed male to either a blue-pointed or a seal-pointed female—as a rule it did not matter much what colour the female was—and then to mate the blue-pointed sire to his own daughters, irrespective of whether the latter were blue or seal-pointed."

Mrs. Marion Webb (Rolleston) has quite a collection: Misty Morn of Morton, a Siamese kitten, a fox terrier, two jackdaws, and a Persian. Misty is an early riser, and wants to inculcate this very questionable virtue, as she goes the round of the bedrooms rattling the door-knobs to be let in. Then she goes to see Jack and Jill, the daws, set free; they all go down the garden to a shed, where the daws

are fed, and Misty sits waiting to catch the mice attracted by their food; what time Jack and Jill endeavour to sneak into the greenhouse to pick holes in the tomatoes and pull the labels out of the pots. Misty took two specials and a first at Sandy, and was understudy for the Siamese in "The Chinese Bungalow," when produced at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

Mrs. Baker (Windsor) writes: "I started in Siamese about ten years ago; the first, and the most lovable, was a daughter of Prince Souti, who died about three months ago. Her daughter, Souti, is very clever at opening doors and other tricks. I am very anxious just now, expecting two litters by my stud, Koung, who was first at the C.P. and second at Kentish Town in kitten class. He is a very gentle cat, and devoted to one of his queens, from whom he cannot bear to be separated."

Mrs. Mortimer Livingstone (Fareham) sends these notes: "I send you a few lines about my pet Siamese. Lucille has two kittens, of whom she is very proud. When only two weeks old they were crawling round their box, and spitting at everyone but their mother; and now they are just over a month they do nothing but play and run about all day. Kailas, their father, is very proud of them, as it took him nearly two years to make up his mind to have a wife; however, now that he has taken the step I hope he will follow in the footsteps of his father, Robin Goodfellow. He is not as sweet-tempered as his father to anyone but myself; he has only to hear my footsteps, and he lets the world know thoroughly that mistress is coming. Then, in the evenings, if I go to see him, he crouches down behind his sleeping-box and plays a sort of hide-and-seek with me. Lucille is a perfect darling, she is so sweet-tempered and loves everybody, including Jack, our Irish terrier, with whom she shares the hearth-rug in the winter, and if Jack takes too much of the rug before the cheerful fire she gently but firmly tells him all about it."

The latest ladies' fad in Paris is to be accompanied by a Siamese cat, trained to "lead" like a dog, with bow collar to match costume. These are now taken shopping and to fashionable restaurants. We can imagine a good old fuss one of these days if two toms don't like the colour of each other's bows and tell each other so—quelle blague!

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE are pleased to see that the efforts of the G.C. have at last resulted in the Railway Companies allowing to cats the same privileges, as regards returning from shows at half-price, as are accorded to all other kinds of show stock but mice. An analogous opportunity may never recur, but if it should we hope that on the next occasion those who profess to cater for every branch of the fur fancies will take care that they **do** serve the interests of **all** branches, and not rest content when assured that rabbit and cavy interests are duly safeguarded! a piece of carelessness which has cost cat exhibitors a good bit during the past couple of seasons, and will continue so to cost mouse exhibitors, mostly small men, to whom the reduction would have been of importance.

MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER remarked recently that she was often asked for the address of a good animal photographer. Those interested are referred to Mr. Lord's advert. Mr. Lord photographs live stock of all kinds all over the country, and is the official photographer for the Harper Adams Agricultural College and National Poultry Institute. We will add that anyone having obtained good photos can have equally good blocks made from them and published in "Cat Gossip" on terms which we think no other journal will venture to copy!

MISS BEA. WOODS writes, re the safe arrival of her Speedwell Tommy Tucker, a 4½ months Billy Bumpet son, and Speedwell Salome, a 3½ months granddaughter of Milord o' Mendip: "Van Oppens handled my shipments, and their methods are beyond compare. They are sending two more kits from England, which I expect any day."

CRUYDON Schedules are out. Over 180 specials and 164 classes are provided for this always very popular fixture.

THE big blue Russian S.H. (wrongly described in the daily Press as a Russian wild cat), which used to play with and bully two of the lions at the Zoo, is dead, and will be much missed by Abdullah, his particular lion "pal."

BECHUANALAND is one of the distant places to which "Cat Gossip" penetrates, and from there Miss Kent (owner of the Manx, Eubonius) kindly writes: "It is not easy to say what 'Cat Gossip' has meant to me here in the back-veldt . . . without it and the delightful letters of Miss Hill-Shaw, I don't know how I should bear separation from certain cats and cat-lovers. It is the first paper I read, from cover to cover, the night it comes—a recurring joy. Being whole-heartedly appreciative I have no criticism to make. I only wish some S.H. lover would give as many interesting details, anent S.H., as Mrs. Campbell-Fraser does of the L.H. (We wish so too, dear lady, but we wish in vain!) . . . There are three cats here—a L.H. cream, whose brother, a S.H. cream, I saw at Kimberley on the

way up, a blotched dark grey tabby, and a small spotted grey and white. Quite recently I noticed that

THE WITCH DOCTOR'S COSTUME.

the headdress of a native witch doctor, stated to be made from the skin of a 'wild-cat,' was grey and spotted like the coat of my 'Pariah-cat,' as I call him; the tail dangling behind, being very fluffy, and six-ringed, as his is—but no white." Undoubtedly many of the African tame cats contain blood of wild varieties, **cafra** and **nigripes**, which inter-breed easily with them.

MISS ADYE wishes, now winter is on us, to beg people whose cats sleep in the living-rooms to always turn off the gas at the main at night. Cats may so easily, in play, or after mice or beetles, turn on the tap and be suffocated—in fact, we have reported such cases in "Cat Gossip." Miss Adye relates how she herself once was happily awakened from sleep by horrible screams from her Border terrier puppy, and rushing down found her and the cats unconscious. One of the cats had turned the gas oven on. The cats, on air being admitted, began to give very painful screams; however, soon all recovered; but if Miss Adye had been a sound sleeper they must all have perished. Miss Adye has a lovely kitten with a very heavy coat, by Eastbury Baron, ex Torfrida, which she hopes may at last be a self-red.

MRS. BURKE sends us the following very remarkable instance of a cat's friendship with a pony, from Minehead: "The cat belongs to the gardener of a friend of mine. Last summer the gardener had a cottage attached to some big stables, where during August a lot of polo ponies were stabled. Puss formed a great attachment to one of these ponies, and spent all his time in the box with the pony—always this one special pony. At the end of the season the ponies left, and the cat returned home to his fireside. This summer the gardener moved into another cottage half-a-mile away, and the cat settled down happily. Not long after, when he was working in his garden near the main road, the cat sitting close by on the wall, when a string of ponies passed, amongst them his friend of last year. The cat took no apparent notice, but within an hour he was down at the stable sitting with his old friend, and there remained as long as the pony was in the stables. By what did he recognise him after a year? I should imagine by the sense of smell?"

MRS. QUARRY writes: "I was interested in your recent remarks on animal friendships, and think the following would be hard to beat. Our barn cat, a black half-Persian, and Dan, a wire terrier, who lives in the house, are frequently rattling together. For several night Mimi, the cat, would insist on bringing her 3 weeks old kitten into the dog's bed in the kitchen; it was always put outside in a comfortable bed, but one morning was found dead half eaten by a huge rat, evidently too big for the poor mother to tackle alone; two nights later the



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rat met his well-deserved fate. We blamed ourselves very much for not understanding why she wanted her kitten placed in safety.

We draw the attention of readers liking something "out of the common" to Miss Oldfield Howey's advertisement of her curious polydactyle kittens. Siamese kittens are offered by Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. Bramhall, Mrs. Burke, Miss Noble, and Miss Leatherdale. Siamese fanciers must be careful not to overstock the market, or they will only be able to realise prices which will not recoup them for the expenses of raising a breed like this.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

Miss Kathleen Yorke writes that she has two charming daughters of the late Ch. Azure of Hadley. Wisteria is the happy mother of three males and three females, sired by Dazzler of Henley, now now 5½ weeks old. The second queen, who bears the sweet name of Angel Face, is in kitten to John of Bedale, and Miss Yorke is hoping for great things. Wisteria and Angel Face both inherit the wonderful Azure eye. Two kittens, sons of Milord o' Mendip, make a very complete little cattery.

New transfer forms on pink paper are now being issued by the G.C. These are numbered 2—in con-

tradistinction to the registration forms, on white paper, numbered 1. Quite a brainy improvement.

Langhern Donovan, Mrs. Aubrey's Chinchilla male, has now a beautiful home in New South Wales, and his late owner has sent me the following cutting from "The Australasian," the Melbourne paper:—"The Cat Fanciers' Association of New South Wales held its annual championship show at Marrickville Town Hall, on June 18. This was the largest show of Persian cats ever held in Sydney. Over 100 cats competed. The prize for best cat in the show was awarded to Mrs. Lonsdale's imported red tabby male, Soame Flambeau. Soame is a large beautifully marked red tabby, with a massive coat, and in the best of condition. He stood out alone for quality. Mrs. J. H. Pearse's Barb of Danbury, blue male, ran very close for the honour. Mrs. Lonsdale's female Chinchilla Chingie, a perfect specimen of Chinchilla, won the trophy for the best opposite sex. Mrs. Lonsdale won with her imported Chinchilla male, Langherne Donovan. He is a beautiful clear unmarked Chinchilla, with perfect round green eyes, no false colouring; as perfect a Chinchilla as could be desired. Mrs. H. J. Brown, of Malvern, Victoria, judged most classes."

The mother of Ch. Shere Khan o' the Coombe, Princess Prettikins, has passed away; she was a most sweet cat, dam of many winners, and had

never had a day's illness during her long life; the birth of seven kittens was too great an effort, and Miss Langhorne, who loved her dearly, is inconsolable. Curzon o' the Coombe has been neutered, as Miss Langhorne will not keep a stud unless he is tip-top. Curzon is lovely from the picturesque point of view, and he will be very happy now with the freedom of hours and gardens. I must commend Miss Langhorne's decision in this matter; we should all consider strength, stamina, and points in a stud, thus working for the good of the progeny.

Dame Clara Butt's sister, Mrs. Argent, has a litter by John of Bedale, the mother being bred by Miss J. B. Langton, winning kitten last year at the S.C.C.C. Show, and one of the last got of that fine old cat, Ch. Azure of Hadley.

WEEKLY INQUIRY.

Many novices have written to ask me if I use heat in my out-of-door catteries? My largest house, "Castle Adamant," faces south, and so gets all the possible sun these wintry days; I have no heating, but use a paraffin lamp (placed well out of reach), for lighting purposes these short days, and on a damp or foggy day we light up early to give a ray of cheerfulness. With a dry well-constructed house I have never found our cats suffer from cold; damp, airless surroundings, cement floors and stone or brick walls, which "sweat" in wet weather, are things to guard against. Dry cold will hurt no animal.

A TALKING CAT.

Germany has now started a cat paper of its own, a monthly illustrated of forty pages! published in Berlin. It is a remarkable coincidence that, as yet at any rate, the principal Cat League does not use this paper, but, to quote the words of our Berlin correspondent, "they bury themselves in an uncomfortable way in the pages of the 'Tier-börse' (Animal Exchange and Mart), much as the G.C.C.F. does . . .!" From the pages of "Unsere Katze" ("Our Cat"), we cull this very interesting information as to the talking cat, whose throat and mouth organs, as we recently mentioned, were exhibited at the late Berlin Cat Show. "The Wonder-Cat, Peter Alupka, exhibited by his owner, Dr. Sutoris, has caused the greatest sensation in many towns. Scientists and naturalists have declared him the most interesting animal of our period. A gramophone record, which was to be heard daily at the Cat Show, has preserved his voice for future generations. That well known newspaper, the 'Vossische Zeitung,' observed, on the occasion of his giving a public performance: Peter opened the proceedings like a practised speaker. In gentle tones he referred to the gentle sex, for he called energetically for Anna and Helen. Then he

A SINGER TOO.

accompanied his mistress, with distinct accentuation, in a duet, 'Der Mai ist Gekommen.' " (What dear memories of days gone by the name of this old "Wanderlied" recalls!—Ed.) "To wind up he gave three cheers, calling loudly 'Hurrah' three times." The "Berlin Morning Post" reported: "Yesterday a cat was exhibited at the Circus Busch by Dr. Sutoris. This cat speaks and sings. Peter does not only mumble something indistinctly in his magnificent whiskers; no, indeed, with almost human intonation he pronounces words and sings songs."

CUSSEDNESS!

A woman was walking in one of London's outermost suburbs one day when she heard a piteous little Meow! Meow! She and her two children stopped and looked for the wailer, and after a time saw, high up in a "Monkey Puzzle" tree, a tiny kitten. She called and coaxed, and inch by inch the kitten descended, until, after twenty minutes or so, it reached the ground. As she walked away the kitten followed her, so she carried it back to the garden where she found it, when it at once darted straight up the "Monkey Puzzle" again!

NANCY RICHARDSON.

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- 89 Siamese Male.
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- XX Entry Fee in this Class 1s. Prizes: Bronze Medals for 1st and 2nd.

Entries definitely Close October 21st.

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