

# CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 49

NOVEMBER 9th, 1927

Price 3d., post free

## LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

The Committee of the S.C.C.C. hear with regret that Miss Ethel Savory is unable to undertake the L.H. blue kitten classes at their forthcoming Ch. Show. This is a great disappointment to exhibitors and to myself personally. The Misses Savory have bred cats for so many years, and thoroughly understand both showing and judging. One cheering item in Miss Savory's letter is that they have two brown tabby L.H. males. Of these, to quote her own words, she says: "Our two brown tabby male kittens are quite nice ones, I think, but they are not to be shown till they are adult."

I have heard of another brown tabby kitten, belonging to Miss W. French, breeder Mrs. Bryan; Miss Hotson also has one, bred from Garb: Mascot, so we must hope this handsome variety is at last waking up.

By-the-bye, Mrs. Fosbery told me the other day that it is more than probable that the Newbury Show will next year be held at Newbury, instead of in Reading. The hall is a very good one, larger than the Reading Corn Exchange, which, of course, would be an advantage, as the fixture is growing annually, and more space is required. Apropos of the last Ch. Show, Miss Marriott writes: "In passing I may say that I considered it a most enjoyable one. Everybody seemed out to make it the success which I am sure it must have been, and I hope it is only the first of many more visits for me. Particularly noticeable and appreciated was the ever-ready and kindly advice of well-known exhibitors towards novices like myself."

I am glad to hear that Jan of the Coombe, the cream male belonging to Mrs. Sidney Evans, is making fine headway from his recent accident, and Mrs. Evans is looking forward to showing him at the Palace.

Meeting Miss Queenie Soame at Newbury, I was pleased to learn that her mother is now convalescent; six weeks is a long time to be laid up, and it must have been very fretting to Mrs. Soame to have to forego the care of her pets.

In answer to Miss Langhorne's query as to the cause of "open eyes" in newly born kittens, opinions seem to vary; in her own case she looked upon it as a sort of epidemic, as it occurred in litters from queens who had never suffered in this way before, whose progeny had invariably been born "normal." I do not think I could entertain the idea of "open eyes" being epidemic, nor do I believe the sire has anything to do with the matter. Fear (and its consequent result on the queen's nerves) when in kitten, is I believe the chief factor. Worms even tend to this trouble, for we know that a cat suffering from these pests is always nervous, and most easily frightened. Fear, therefore, in this sense may be termed an epidemic, for the cause being possibly undiscovered, affects the whole family of queens. One new queen introduced suddenly without ceremony amongst the old friendly ones; a dog of violent manners; an unknown, not too gentle, human may, any or either, by causing fear, check for a fraction of a second the heart's action, and affect the nerves both of the mother and the unborn babes, and eyes too early opened are the result. This is my own belief and experience, and it is for this reason that I always caution a novice to inquire as to the "temper" of the queen she wishes to add to her cattery. If you love a "little demon," keep her in her own den—severely alone! Any further opinions on this subject would be welcome.

From the Cattery "Of the Court" comes the following news: "My kittens are all very well. Dew-drop has one huge female, Aphrodite, by Mercury of Pensford; she is only two months old, and weighs just under three pounds—a beauty. Dazzler's kits, ex Dainty Lady, are all lovely, and I am keeping two males to show, Orlando and Orsino. They are all up to weight except the wee female, but she is perfectly strong and well. Orsino weighed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. at eleven weeks. He is Dazzler in miniature. These kits are fed as follows: 7.30 a.m., a big meal of Lactol; 10 a.m., all have best raw steak, minced; 2 p.m., all have Bengers' food or Lactol; 5.30, the kittens have a big feed of fresh haddock, and the grown-ups have cod; 9.30, Another feed of Lactol or Bengers'. I have parted with two male kittens, and one female is going to Mons. Armand Steens (Antwerp) next month. We are delighted with our 'Rhodian' hut, or, rather, kitten house, which we keep indoors in

the 'nursery' as it is called. I had it stained, and the inside floors lined with white linoleum. When the kittens have had a good romp and begun to lie about on the floor we pop them at once into their snug house, and it keeps them warm and out of draughts, when their vitality is at its lowest. They love it, too. It was so nice to see how they took to this house, and I think it helps them not to be afraid of the pens at shows."

Query: Has the National Ch. Show ever before fallen in November, Mr. Hon. Secretary?

## SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

By MUANG T'HAI.

The first Specialist Siamese Show in America will be held in conjunction with the Detroit Persian Show in the first week in February.

Miss Fitzwilliam (York) sends us the sad news that her stud, Brian de Listinoise, has been run over by a train; she observes it is remarkable that he should have been killed by a slow train that was just slowing down to enter the station. Cats appear to be half paralysed by the noise; our local stationmaster tells us it is useless for him to try to keep a cat, as they are always killed by a train before long. Several Siamese kits are advertised again this week.

Mrs. Allen-Maturin has purchased the beautiful kitten, Darboy, who was first in over six months kittens at the Club Show, and also took a special for eye colour. He took first for his new owner at Bournemouth last week, and was much admired; we hope this son of Croham Boi-Bois will bring better luck with him.

Mr. Wickings writes: "It was during the War, when in the M.T.A.S.C., I was taking broken-down motors by rail to Paris, and had several hours to wait at that lovely riverside town of Creil en Seine. Having been confined to rail trucks for days, it was quite a treat to have a walk and go into the town and buy a few dainties and so forth. While at a store I saw two lovely cats, which I was given to understand were caught wild and had to be brought up on a bottle. I was so taken up with their beauty that for years I have spoken about them, and longed to be the owner of one. Some time ago a lady asked me if I would give a Siamese female kit a good home; as soon as she arrived I saw it was the same breed that I had seen in France. Well, she has had a good home, and been well looked after; at the present time fast asleep in the armchair, side fire, cuddling my big white neuter, Paddy. I had very bad luck with her first litter, losing all but one, and was more than lucky to save the queen. She had a terrible time kitting, lasting from Saturday to Wednesday. So that was how I became a Siamese exhibitor. I think Siamese cats most affectionate and interesting pets, and if trained in a proper manner are no trouble, not even females when calling. All ours are put to bed at 9 p.m., and not a sound until morning now; the longer one keeps them the

more they learn. I think the fact that I won the Breeders' Cup twice in a twelvemonth shows that a novice has every chance in this Fancy."

## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE FIREMEN'S mascot cat at Philadelphia, Pat, likes ice-cream cones, and the foreman have made a little hole in the floor of the engine-house in which the cone can rest. So here, at least, America is less "cute" than England, for the London ice-cream cat not only goes and buys his own ice-cream, but holds the cone in his front paws while he licks it out, CEDALITE (see advertisement columns) is largely used by poultry breeders, also recommended by the Siamese Fancy; it is much disliked by insect pests. Full particulars on application to Mr. Jeal.

WE THINK this legend, related by a lecturer on "Man's Place in Nature," at Croydon, will be new to most readers:—"There were several interesting stories found in the uncanonical records of Christ and the lower animals, whether true or not he left his hearers to decide for themselves, but he had only time that night to recount one of them. It was related that once Jesus went into a certain village. On the way He saw a young cat which was starving and with no one to care for her. And He took her up and put her in His bosom, and when He came into the village He set food and drink before her. And after she had eaten she gave thanks to Him. And He gave her to one of His disciples, and told him to take care of her. Some of the people who were standing by said, 'That man careth for all creatures,' but He, turning to them, said, 'These creatures were created by the great God. Are they not then your brothers and sisters, having in them the same breath of life, which is eternal?'"

WITH what we can only regard as rank hypocrisy, Arthur Mee, in "My Magazine," pictures "a wise old dog" (why not a wise old cat, too?) submitting himself voluntarily to vivisection for the benefit of his tribe. We must, then, conceive that this vivisectionist writer is either more selfish or less wise than his hypothetical "wise dog," as we have not yet heard that Mr. Mee has offered his own valuable frame for experiment in the hope of relieving human ills! Faugh! and likewise Pfui! These people are more disgusting than the open honest vivisectionist, who "doesn't care a damn"!

SIR WILLIAM COOKE (Newbury), who takes so much interest in Abyssinians, of which he had a mysterious albinistic variety, was married the other day.

EXMOUTH Show, December 7th; about twenty classes. Mr. H. C. Brooke will judge.

CROYDON Show, to-day; 388 exhibits, making 992 entries. Manx entries, we understand, unusually good.

PALACE Schedules are out; 132 classes, and 220 specials! Remember **entries close Monday next.**

BESIDES the articles by well-known writers recently announced, we have ready for use, as space permits,



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"VIOLA TREE," in an amusing article on "If I owned a Desert Island," says that she would bring two cats as her contribution to the peopling of the island, and remarks: "We must take no one who has an unnatural hatred for cats, though I suppose there are nice people who don't care for them." H'm! well, p'raps there are, but not many, we think! Personally, we think there is something very unnatural about a woman cat-hater.

THE Afghan Amir will visit London early in February, we learn from the daily Press. It will be advisable for cat lovers in the district where his staff are quartered to watch closely over their pets, for on the occasion of the previous visit of an Afghan Prince it seems that cats in the district of Park Lane disappeared mysteriously, the servants being very expert at spearing them for kitchen purposes.

### BOURNEMOUTH CAT SHOW.

NOVEMBER 2nd, 1927.

For the second time a Cat Show was held in connection with the Annual Show of the Bournemouth Fur and Feather Society, and that it was a popular move on the part of the Executive was shown by the greatly increased number of entries, which were more than double those of last year. The Drill Hall is an excellent building for the purpose, well lighted,

and free from draughts; roomy pens were supplied by a Yeovil firm, and they were carefully fastened down! A committee of ladies were actively employed in attending to the wants of the cats, some of which were given stewed rabbit, others raw beef; and, with the exception of a few débutantes who were rather shy, all seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. There was a delightful spirit of enthusiasm amongst the exhibitors, some of whom are new to the fancy; they may be encouraged, and try their luck at the larger shows, and we hope that Bournemouth may in the future see its way to holding a show on a larger scale, with more classes for the different varieties; this would certainly attract more exhibitors. Mrs. Yeates, in spite of having hardly fully recovered from her severe illness, most kindly undertook the judging, and that it was most thoroughly and efficiently done goes without saying. Mrs. Stevens, of "Mendip" fame, was amongst the visitors, but had not brought any cats owing to the show closing too late for her to get them home. Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Herbert had a perfect field day, winning 1st and 3rd in blue adults, 1st and 2nd in blue kittens, and 1st with a beautiful litter. Mrs. Shacklock had another nice litter of three, and won a well-deserved 1st for her Chinchilla kitten, I believe the only one in the Show. By the way, has Bournemouth gone over to the blues? If I remember rightly last year there were two or three litters of Chins. Mrs. Maturin had brought Miss Matthews, who is, I believe, new to

the show pen, and must have been very pleased with the success of her red kitten, which won 2nd in a strong A.O.V. class—a beautiful self red by Galdorn. In the same class Mrs. McWatt was 3rd and reserve with an attractive well-marked tortie and a cream with fine eyes, both by Bubbles of Hanley, whose stock did well at Reading. Mrs. Maturin had brought Southampton Darboy and Ni-Perm; 3rd in this class going to Mrs. Rogers. Mrs. Kennaway's tortie and white followed up her Reading success with another 1st in A.O.V. longhair; Mrs. McWatt being 2nd with Bubbles of Hanley, looking much improved since Salisbury; 3rd going to Miss Drummond Bird's tortie, a fine big cat, rather on the dark side. Miss Drummond Bird's well-known Tangerine 1st in neuters—what a lovely cat, a shame he has to be shown in this class! Towards afternoon the hall filled up well, which promised well for financial results, but made it hard to see the exhibits. The impression left on my mind is that of a well-run show (only we wanted more of it), with great courtesy on the part of the officials, and a band of keen fanciers, amongst whom we must not forget to mention the veteran Mr. Gambier Bolton.

E. S. KENNAWAY.

### CATS AT TEIGNMOUTH.

This section, held on November 2nd, in the Parish Hall, was highly successful, quality being good; penning and heating excellent; feeding, under case of Miss Granger, left nothing to be desired. Entries had come even from Yorkshire, one of them a practically perfect blue Persian. Miss Cathcart was there with the veteran Prince Peridot, and amongst the onlookers Miss Edith Clarke and many local cat lovers.

A.V. LONGHAIR—1, Mrs. Wilkings (blue, nearly perfect, almost noseless, gorgeous eyes, pale colour, good coat for time of year); 2, the veteran Prince Peridot (beautiful Chinchilla); 3, Miss Lyme (local exhibit, nice blue, not so short faced), also special; r. Miss Jeffries (blue). A.V. SHORTHAIR—1, Miss Jeffries (magnificent white, great size); 2, Miss Parker; 3, Mrs. Harvey (both tabbies, could not inspect them closely). NEUTER, L.H.—1, Miss Humphries (good pale blue, good type and eyes); 2, E. J. Ford (enormous blue, weighing 17lbs., darker than winner); 3, Lobb; reserve, Mr. Hayward (blue). NEUTER, S.H.—1, Mrs. Boon (big black, good eyes and condition); 2, Miss Hannaford; 3, Inch (both tabbies). RUBY COOKE.

It is very necessary for cats and kittens to have plenty of green food, otherwise their coats suffer as well as their general health. Let them have an outdoor garden prepared in the following manner: Prepare a shallow wooden box, and in this lay a piece of sacking or flannel, folded several times and well soaked in water, and on this sow oats thickly. Cover with a damp cloth, and keep in a warm place till they sprout, and then remove cover. When fully grown put where the cats can have access to it, and a great improvement will soon be noted, both in their coats and general health. Keep well watered, and sow fresh garden weekly.—M. E. O.

### HOPE FOR THE NON-BREEDER?

A few years ago, I remember, a good deal was said and written as to the virtues of Yohimbin as an aphrodisiac, or, in plain English, as a means for inducing laggard breeders (of both sexes) to do their duty towards posterity. It was, I believe, frequently used in the case of dogs; personally I only tried it once, in the case of a valuable and unique strain of rats, which, through in-and-in-breeding, had become sterile, but without result. These rats, by the way, had been bred to such a degree of fineness that the mucous membrane of their noses was like tissue paper, and would bleed at a touch. Years ago, in France (for centuries the land of *Venerie par excellence*) many noble families kept up their own strains of hounds, some very beautiful, carefully avoiding all out-crosses, and I remember reading of a pack the members of which showed this same symptom. In the case of a cat of value, whether "tom" or queen, which obstinately refuses to breed, recourse might be had to this preparation; it could, at any rate, do no harm. I quote some remarks by a writer in "*Chasse et Pêche*," which, though they refer to dogs, may be of interest to some who have the ill-luck to own cats which are difficult breeders.

The writer says: "I have just had recourse to pharmacotherapy to induce a bitch to accept the advances of a dog of which I only had the use for a few days. I succeeded beautifully. . . . My bitch, Wespette, had gone off season end of April; I used injections of Yohimbin on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of June; she came on again on the 7th, and was mated without difficulty on the 10th, 12th, and 14th, commencing to drive off the dogs on the 25th, having thus through this proceeding gone through a perfectly normal 'heat.' . . . Yohimbin is employed both in human and veterinary medical practice . . . but, from conversations and correspondence, I gather that the majority of dog owners are ignorant of it and its uses. . . . Yohimbin is a whitish salt derived from the bark of the *Pausinystalla Yohimba*. It is soluble in water, and may be given as a drug in the form of capsules or pills, or as a hypodermic injection. . . . The dose, internally, is one to two centigrammes, according to size of dogs; as an injection, five to ten milligrammes, repeated daily until effectual. . . ."

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The writer goes on to say that by this means it is possible to ensure having foster-mothers ready just at the precise period they will be wanted, and finishes with the amusing anecdote: "I remember the gratitude of an old Sheikh of the Moroccan Riffs, who remained faithful to our cause principally because our V.S. had given him some subcutaneous injections of the Yohimbin, which was used in our breeding stables! Surely when the day comes for his services and his faithfulness to France to be rewarded by a decoration, Allah will laugh in his beard!"

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"I am glad the Cats have a paper of their own, they have long needed it. . . . I grieve much to see the lack of anything approaching good silver and brown tabbies in the show pen now, and am sorry I cannot put one or two of the great old champions before the breeders of to-day."—(Mrs.) Helen Slingsby (Beverley).

Mayor Walter Dean is out 74 dollars in cash, the amount he spent sending a cable to Capt. Lindbergh, bidding for an option on the cat which he erroneously thought had made the trip with the New York-Paris flyer. He had plans all made to sell 25,000 cats of the "Lindbergh strain" and had outlined a world-wide advertising campaign for "Lindbergh" cats—the first strain to cross the Atlantic.—"Cat Courier."



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