

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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CROYDON SHOW.

NOVEMBER 9TH.

The many exhibitors at Croydon must have considered themselves unusually lucky in having such a lovely day for their Show. The extreme cold outside served only to emphasize the warmth and comfort within. The Hall was beautifully decorated, and gave an impression of great festivity. I imagine, too, that the judges have seldom had a better light by which to accomplish their difficult tasks. One of the great attractions was Miss Hill-Shaw's The Flying Dutchman, a charming wee blue Russian kitten, which had come by aeroplane from Amsterdam to Croydon. His pen was decorated with a miniature aeroplane, and also contained the small cardboard shoe-box in which he had made his momentous journey. As usual, blues reigned supreme, and however Mrs. Yeates fulfilled her extraordinarily difficult task it is hard to imagine. But she was lucky in having Mr. Yeates to steward for her, and this no doubt made all the difference. It seemed to me to be a herculean undertaking for one person, but was carried out with that minute attention to detail which characterises all Mrs. Yeates' actions. I have seldom seen such a bevy of beautiful cats, and there must have been many there thoroughly deserving prizes, but for whom there were not any left. Although this must have been the case I heard no word of complaint from beginning to end of the day. Miss Joyce Fair deservedly won the coveted honour of best cat in the Show, with her Northway Sheldine. This lovely female is by Eros of Allington, ex Northway Singing Hinny. Dobbin of Dunesk, a very nice blue male kitten by Mercury of Pensford, shown by Mrs. Brunton, was brought out for best kitten in show, but was beaten by Mrs. Yeend's cream female, Mirza of Bredon. In Blue males Miss Langston won first and champion with Dion of Allington. This fine male was bred by Lady Eardley-Wilmot, and is by the late Eros of Allington, ex Joyous June of Henley. Although only second in blue males I have never seen Ch. Gentleman of Henley looking so nice, and I was not alone in this opinion. Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet was in splendid form, and, as usual, collected an admiring crowd round his pen. In creams, Colneside Cream Bunne won many firsts

and championships, and Mrs. Yeend's Mick of Bredon also made his mark.

"A little lion, small and dainty sweet,
With sea-green eyes, and softly stepping feet."

I think these lines aptly describe those ethereal creatures, the Chinchillas, of whom there were many lovely specimens present. In Chinchilla males Mrs. Reynolds-Sams won with Glitter of Runnymede, and in females Miss Langston was first with Recompense of Allington. This queen also won a championship. Miss Langston also won first in Chinchilla male kittens with Playboy of Allington, and first in female kittens with Mab of Allington. Mr. Drake took first in Chinchilla male kittens, 6 to 9 months, with Victor of Aldwych, and Miss Langston with female Nadine of Allington. In black males Mrs. Soame won with Desert Chief, and in black females Mrs. McClure with Ch. Jill of Ashburnham. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser was second with Ch. Lavina of Hadley, and Miss J. M. Fisher was second in males with Ivanhoe of Hadley. Amongst the litters I noticed a charming family of five blue babies by Flick-a-Maroo (that much-discussed blue male), out of Yveen of Bredon. In smokes (3 to 6 months) Miss D. M. Alexander won with Countess of Gippeswyk. In neuters Miss Heywood won with Silvatoye of Porchester, a fine blue, and I noticed a lovely tabby neuter, called Mr. Toots. Miss E. M. Hill sold two short-haired red kittens to Messrs. Brown and Wilson, and, although sad at the parting, was quite satisfied that they were going to a good home. I was very glad to enrol several new contributors to "Cat Gossip," and I heard on every hand how deservedly welcome this paper was amongst the élite in the Cat Fancy. The Siamese breeders were, indeed, lucky to have Mrs. Marion Cran as their judge. Although it is many years since she bred that wonder cat, The Bunny Hug of Hyver, who has left his mark on the blues of to-day. I am sure she must still have a soft corner in her heart for the blues who were her first loves, in spite of her present very deep affection for the Siamese. How splendid it would be were she to breed another Bunny Hug. Among the visitors were many well known members of the Fancy, including Mrs. and Miss Campbell-Fraser, Mrs. Fosbery, Miss Adams, Miss Lockhart, Miss Sidney Fairbrother and her niece, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Captain

Guy St. Barbe Miss Yorke, Miss Elmslie, Miss Sybil Robinson, Lady Eardley-Wilmot, Mrs. Bazeley, Mrs. Brunton (who had travelled all the way from Scotland to be present), Mrs. Cattermole, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Jepson, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. McLeod and Miss Tunks, Mrs. Yeend, Miss J. M. Fisher, Mrs. Wade, and many others. To-day the cat was shown in all its glory, but it was also good to see that those poor pussies whose lot is hard and far removed from the comfortable conditions under which our pets exist, were not forgotten, for the Cats' Protection League was represented in the Hall, and supplied very helpful literature on the subject and the problems involved of the stray cat. These notes would not be complete without reference to the very able secretary, Miss Hill-Shaw. Her splendid powers of organisation were appreciated to the full, and in her charming manner she made all welcome.

M. E. OGLETHORPE.

BLACK M., over 9 months—1, Mrs. Soames' Desert Chief; 2, Miss J. M. Fisher's Ivanhoe of Hadley; 3, Mrs. Waber's Touquet of Kostany. BLACK F., over 9—1, Mrs. McClure's Ch. Jill of Ashburnham; 2, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's Ch. Lorina of Hadley; 3, Mrs. MacKenzie's Black Dot. WHITE M.—1 and 2, Mrs. Cattermole's Beauty of Mayfield and White Chief; 3, Miss O. Nicol's Fairy King. WHITE F.—1, Mrs. Cattermole's Ch. Veracity of M.; 2, Mrs. Brunton's Narcissus of Dunesk; 3, Mrs. Reynolds Sams' Snowstorm of Runnymede. BLUE M.—1 and champion, Miss Langston's Dion of Allington; 2 and 3, Lady Eardley-Wilmot's Ch. Gentleman of Henley and Dazzler of H. BLUE F.—1 and champion, Miss Joyce Fair's Northway Shelmerdine; 2, Miss Langston's Melusine of Allington; 3, Mr. Eric Nathan's Erica Surswon. BLUE BREEDERS—1, Miss Joyce Fair's N. Shelmerdine. BLUE NOVICE—1, Miss Joyce Fair's N. Shelmerdine; 2, Mrs. Reynolds Sams' Chittabob of Runnymede; 3, Mr. Eric Nathan's Surswon. BLUE SENIOR—1 and 2, Lady Eardley-Wilmot's Ch. Gentleman and Ch. Dazzler of Henley; 3, Mrs. Bazeley's Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet. BLUE JUNIOR—1, Miss Joyce Fair's N. Shelmerdine; 2 and 3, Miss Langston's Dion and Melusine of Allington. BLUE LIMIT—1, Miss Joyce Fair's N. Shelmerdine; 2, Miss Langston's Melusine of Allington; 3, Mrs. F. Stevens' Merlin of Mendip. BLUE SPECIAL LIMIT—1, Miss Joyce Fair's N. Shelmerdine; 2, Miss Langston's Melusine; 3, Mrs. Reynolds Sams' Chittabob of Runnymede. RED TABBY M.—1 and champion, Mrs. Neate's Ch. Red Leader; 2, Miss E. Hill's Galdorn; 3, Mrs. Neate's King of the Reds. RED TABBY F.—1 and champion, Mrs. Soame's Red Rocket; 2, Mrs. Neate's Scarlet Stripes. TORTOISESHELL M. or F.—1 and champion, Heathside Honey Bee; 2, Mrs. Neate's Mastermaid. TORTOISESHELL AND WHITE, M. or F.—1 and champion, Mr. A. Blandford's Gay Sally; 2 and 3, Mrs. Kennaway's Garb; Bobby Dazzler and Garb; Dame Patch. CREAM M.—1 and champion, Madame Doll's Colneside Cream Bunne; 2, Mrs. Yeend's Mick of Bredon; 3, Mrs. Jinks' Lord Dinguss of Gresty. CREAM F.—1 and champion, Mrs. Langherne's Ch. Mignonette of The Combe; 2, Miss Darlington Manley's Pam of Hanley. CHINCHILLA M.—1 and champion Mrs. Reynolds Sams' Glitter of Runnymede; 2, Mr. Drake's Peter of Aldwych; 3, Mrs. Newton's Silver Caesar of Correnden. CHINCHILLA F.—1 and champion, Miss Langston's Recompense of Allington; 2, Mrs. Sharman's Langherne Betty of Coryton; 3, Mrs. Reynolds Sams' Dimple of Runnymede. BLUE KITS., 3 to 6 months (M.)—1, Mrs. Brunton's Dobbie of Dunesk; 2, Miss George's Blue Bell; 3, Mrs. Ogglethorpe's Orsino of The Court. BLUE M., 6 to 9 months—1, Miss George's Bunkered; 2, Captain Guy St. Barbe's Blessing of Culloden; 3, Miss George's Berwick. BLUE F., 3 to 6

months—1, Miss George's Powder Puff; 2, Miss Langston's Jennifer of Allington; 3, Mrs. Brunton's Sweet Lavender of Dunesk. BLUE F., 6 to 9 months—1, Mrs. Bazeley's Colneside Carol's Fairy; 2, Captain Guy St. Barbe's Shalia of Culloden; 3, Mrs. Conran's O'Kay.

THE SIAMESE.

Judge: Mrs. Marion Cran. Stewards: Lady Foster-Fraser, Miss Lesley Cran.

By The Judge.

It is not necessary for me to repeat praises of the way our dear ladies, the Misses Hill-Shaw, arranged everything; there they were at the high table, our indomitable, gay, and courageous friends. I saluted them, received my instructions, badge, and books, and felt the day was well begun. I had with me as stewards "Lesley Dudley" and Lady Foster-Fraser, who worked right heartily to help me to get a just idea of the cats, and handled them so beautifully that not one of us was mauled at all; the lass, "Lesley Dudley," is but newly back from Paris, where for five years she has been studying grand opera under Madame Emma Nevada, but she returned to the cat world as a duck to water; for are there not behind her those long happy years in the Garden of Ignorance, where we bred blues and the Bunny Hug together, and later had the lovely Siamese, Tatty Bogle, before she left the garden and the cats to go over the sea and become a singer! Lady Foster-Fraser came with us virgin of soul. She had never been to a Cat Show in her life, never even kept a cat; loved them vaguely, remotely, as a child loves the stars; and to me, personally, one of the most fascinating parts of the day was to see her interest bud and grow; through the busy hours one could see the fashioning of a delightful new recruit to the Cat Fancy, and enjoy the just remarks of a newcomer totally free from prejudice or bias. SIAMESE MALES were disappointing; the honors at first looked like going to one with glorious head and eyes, but on examination he proved to have brindled legs and thighs; one of the most serious defects in a Siamese is any mismarking; the Siamese Club very wisely puts peculiar stress on body-colour, and lays it down that it shall be "without streaks, bars, blotches, or any other body marking." I found grave cause for thought among some of the males. The championship went to Mrs. Calvert's Tai-Long, a typical fellow on the red fawn side, with good dense points and a nice head, which might have been a trifle wider between the ears; a handsome cat, but not the beau-ideal. Second, Miss Busteed's Jimbois, a far nicer fawn, but leaning to the English round head a bit, enough to put him second; he was a lovely puss to handle, evidently used to very gentle hands. Third, Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Puteh-Punya, which had, of course, distinction, as all her breed has; but Puteh had light points and a barred tail, so he came down; and reserve was given to Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Darboy, with a perfect head and mask. He will probably sire glorious kittens, for he carries that forgotten splendour, the head of Pekin, his dam. It gave me a real pang to put him where I did. V h c, Mr. Wicking's Iamit. I heard in due course that Mr. Wicking had no use for my judging. If he had spoken to me I would have told him to look up the Club rules. Iamit has a barred head, in some lights it is almost tabby, the stripes are so distinct; otherwise a beautiful cat, on the dark side. H c, Miss Busteed's Litason; good eyes, with the temple mark across the shoulders, which I wish the Siamese Club would encourage, as I do also wish it would permit the kink, in moderation. The distinctive marks of our wonderful breed are surely worth preserving? Litason has a round head, like his great father; but if his sires stock as fine we shall know how to appreciate him! Mrs. O'Grady's Khubisurat appeared to be sick, and was not taken out of his pen. SIAMESE FEMALES gave me a harder task. There was a wonderful little fairy with a pale, pale coat, dense points, deep blue eyes; so fine and small . . . a breath of a thing . . . the teeth, when it yawned, were undeveloped, tiny pearls

round a pink, healthy tongue; the marten face was not there, for the mask was that, still, of a kitten. I sent hurried messages to Olympus asking if there was a mistake and a kit had got among the cats. "It is a cat" came back the answer. I handled the mite; exquisite, but not somehow what I wanted to feel between my hands for a female champion. Then it yawned completely at ease, and I sent swift feet flying back again on high. "But its teeth?" "It is a cat," came back the answer, and that was that. I turned to other pens, discomfited; and, much surprised, began marking "absent" by one after another. The pens were nearly all empty. Then Lady Foster-Fraser observed a bump and we found that the queens had crept under their blankets and wool-wool and gone quietly to sleep! Sensible women! They were taken out; blinking, and soft with sleep, the pretty creatures; and soon found myself handling good honest-to-God sizes, and recovered my standard of values. Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling was so beautiful in colour, density of points, and deep blue eye that she ran Ch. Simple mighty close. But on seeing them side by side, in spite of darkening bloom on the older queen's coat, the ancient magic of Simple still prevailed; she was a marvel as a kitten, has won her full title, borne many children, led a full and crowded life, and yet I could feel the charm there, as I handle her unrecognised, of a very great beauty; the daughter of Bonzo and Simple did not quite succeed in cutting her mother out. Simple took the championship, Bonzette second, and the Dresden china fairy, Miss Olive Stent's Herself took third. Reserve to Miss Prichard and Miss Norrie's Simparaval, another of Simple's daughters. This is a cat of beautiful build; it failed in eye colour, otherwise it would have stood with the first two. It took the silver special for most typical shaped Siamese cat, kitten, or neuter. V h c to Mrs. Cate's Pekois, good eyes, but brindle markings; also to Miss Busteed's Ch. Ki-weena, which has that round head of hers and the pale eye to nullify the pale coat and dense points which once won her her title. Miss Busteed is a true cat lover and a sound sportswoman; she told me I had put Ki-weena in her right place. H c, Mr. Wickings' Fairlight Gipsy; a lovely little queen of good type, failing in eye and body colour. C. Major Woodiwiss's Woodroffe Sliwing; not shown in very good condition. She had nice eyes. Mrs. Maturin's Galita was running from the eyes, and I would not have her out. BREEDERS—1, to the champion Tai-Long; 2, Herself; 3, Prestwick Puteh-Punya; r, Iamit; v h c, Fairlight Gipsy; h c, Woodroffe Sliwing. NOVICE—1, Jimbois; 2, Prestwick Puteh-Punya; 3, Simparaval; r, Southampton Darboy; v h c, Litason and Pekois; h c, Woodroffe Sliwing. LIMIT—1, Tai-Long; 2, Jimbois; 3, Herself; r, P. Puteh-Punya; v h c, Simparaval, S. Darboy; h c, Iamit; c, Woodroffe Sliwing. BRACE—1, Jimbois and Litason; 2, Iamit and Fairlight Gipsy; 3, S. Darboy and S. Galita. TEAM—1, Ch. Simple, Sib, and Simzette (shown by Miss Dixon, a wonderful trio); 2, Miss Busteed's Jimbois, Litason, and Ch. Ki-weena; 3, Major Woodiwiss, faint, but pursuing with Woodroffe Sliwing, Woodroffe Adwing, Woodroffe Sowing, and Woodroffe Boju (not a very even team of youngsters). BROOD QUEENS—1, Ch. Simple, with Simparaval, Benzette of Petaling, Sib, Simzette, and Raine to her credit; 2, Woodroffe Adwing, dam to W. Sliwing, W. Bowing, and W. Bouquet. KITTEN CLASSES—This is the first time I have judged cats and kittens in one day, and it is quite a business! In MALES, 3 to 6 months, 1 to Kuching Kara, Mrs. Hindley's pretty kit, which beat Major Woodiwiss's Woodroffe Boju mostly on condition. I liked Boju immensely; a lovely type with lovely eyes. I wonder if Major Woodiwiss ever worms his kits? It seems an impertinence to breathe the thought, I know, to so old a breeder; but all the same it came to my mind, and he will forgive me, I think, for he is the most generous exhibitor I know, and of that more anon. Third, Woodroffe Jubo, the same, but paler in points. MALE KITTENS, 6 to 9 months—Here I found the lovely Sib, which took first at a glance. A glorious young male with dense points and very pale coat of the desired texture, sleek and close as a man's top hat; a long whip tail, with the tip very delicately kinked; a long pointed head and deep violet

eyes. Second, Mrs. Burke's Sunni-Ming; topped by winner in coat and eye, a fine kit nevertheless. Third, Major Woodiwiss's Woodroffe Bowing (typical, but lean); v h c, Miss Smyth's Ranji Rex (too round in head and pale in eye); h c, Miss George's Cheeky Boy, also round headed and too fluffy in the texture of coat; his eyes are very good. FEMALE KITTENS, 3—6 months—1, Miss Amor's Bin-Tee (fine eyes and lovely colour); 2, Miss Smyth's Princess Zaidee, Lovely eyes, and a better type than the winner, but fails in body colour, and brindled. I find these kitten markings often come out at adolescence. Both these kits are too round in head. FEMALE KITTENS, 6 to 9 months—1, Miss Dixon's Simzette (a very lovely creature); 2, Mrs. Cate's Fairo (with a perfect head, a trifle darker in body colour); 3, Mrs. O'Grady's Prestwick Purda (I had to put this beauty third because of a green tinge on the outside rim of the blue eyes); r, Rainie; v h c, Mrs. Ellaby's Bello (on the dark side) and Mrs. Darbyshire's Saima Nana (pale in eye and too heavy for my taste). BREEDERS—1, Sib; 2, Simzette; 3, Sunni-Ming; r, Woodroffe Boju; v h c, Woodroffe Jubo and W. Bowing; h c, Bello. NOVICE—1, Bin-Tee; 2, Sunni-Ming; 3, Woodroffe Boju; r, Prestwick Purda; v h c, Woodroffe Bowing and Raine. I made a mistake here in my first list, putting Major Woodiwiss's nice typical Woodroffe Boju over Sunni Ming. That very open-hearted and straightforward gentleman pointed out the discrepancy with my former placing, and did not fail to tease me, too! It was not the act of a mean or a petty soul; it was a friendly and a generous thing to do. Sunni-Ming will pass, and Boju too, but the way Major Woodiwiss took my hard placing of his pets, and then helped me out of a third mistake, will not pass from my regard. KITTEN PAIRS—1, Sib and Simzette; 2, Ranji-Rex and Princess Zaidee; 3, W. Bowing and Bouquet. LITTERS—1, Mrs. French. They had nice heads, pointed and long; one or two had fairly deep blue eyes, but the interest lay in two chocolate male kits, of which one had the golden eyes I have heard of, but never seen. They are supposed to bring gold to their owners, to be exceedingly lucky, and are very rare. The litter was sired by Bonzo. SIAMESE CAT OR KITTEN—1, Sib; 2, Simple; 3, litter sister, Simzette; r, Sunni-Ming; v h c, S. Darboy and Simparaval. SPECIAL PRIZES—Tai-Long took the Siamese Cat Club Breeders' Adult Cup, Ch. Simple the Chee Moo Cup, the Hill-Shaw Challenge Cup, and several other specials, including the Ju Jitsu trophy for her team. Sib and his sister took the Shuvelang trophy, and Sib the Chepping Cock Robin trophy, the Tatty Bogle Cup, the Creina Cup, and other specials; and Herself, the fairy, a special for the best eyes. Then came the "Best in Show" judging with the other judges, which I always dread intensely, for I invariably find myself (with one or two other simple souls) passed and ticked-off by more important people, who handle the cats in a businesslike rough-and-ready way, without any particular sentiment or imagination. I saw our gentle little lady, Miss Helen Hill-Shaw, standing in the melee most patiently, and marvelled at the way her courtesy never fails—the "Temple mark!" The mark of the thoroughbred. I wished I could take her off for a rest and tea, but she got me a chair instead! I gathered together my books, my singing child, my pretty friend (all flushed with the bright lessons of the day in the possibilities of cats), wrung Major Woodiwiss's hand and countered a final jibe; and then we took the long, long trail again back to the Weald of Kent, full of a great content with the progress of the loveliest breed of all cats. The standard is high. I must draw attention to the brindling, but would like to compliment all the Siamese breeders on the wonderful progress in eye and body colour, and the steady recognition of the type.

THE SHORT HAIR SECTION.

CROYDON, 1927.

Sparkling frosty sunshine outside, and all our shimmering, sparkling, shining beauties indoors. What a

show to remember! All homage to the kind hearts of the Misses Hill-Shaw, whose kindly spirit prevails at Croydon Show. Before beginning to describe our sleek short-hair favourites, I must just mention that the "gate" was the best ever known at this Show, and that sales of catalogues were excellent, and there wasn't a crumb of food left! (human food, not cat food). Short-hairs came up well. What some classes lacked in quantity they made up in quality. Mr. F. Norris judged them, and I think all were pleased. The most gratifying win was that of the beautiful silver tabby S.H., Ch. Hampstead Sure Again, best short-hair in Show, beating the Siamese. When one realises how difficult it is to get this variety anywhere near perfection one can but commend the verdict. Mr. Brooke brought Sure Again out for best kitten last year at Croydon. Silver tabbies were, I think, in better numbers than they have been for some time, five in the Show, one in domestic pets. The dear quaint Manx were there in force, females, in both quantity and quality, beating males. Ch. Chelsea Mona V.V., that fascinating lady, taking all honours and hearts. Well, "gentlemen prefer blondes." Mr. Norris! Her daughter, Ellan Vannin, a tabby, reminiscent of her sire, Katzenjammer's Ghost, was a good second; a nice cobby cat, with rabbit coat, Miss M. Hill-Shaw's Hop It 3rd. I also noticed Fenella (Mrs. McLaren-Morrison), taking tortie and white. This class was a good one all round. The male Manx were, perhaps, not quite up to the quality of the ladies. Sweet William of Drumblair distinguished himself by 1st and ch. c. He scored over the 2nd, Jetsam, by a more characteristic Manx coat. Eubonius came 3rd; very typical tabby and white. Egerton House Douglas is, I think, a good cat, and might, perhaps, have gone higher. Starlight Angy, a nice tabby, has a stump, unfortunately, which will always keep him back. On the whole the Manx were a very nice lot, and made a good show of this fascinating variety. The kittens, too, in Manx were very taking, and a Manx litter, shown by Miss Sladen, proved a tremendous attention to all on-lookers as they played happily in their pen. Manx kittens were a very pretty little crowd. Miss H. Hill-Shaw scoring here with two tabbies that might be sisters, but aren't. Pretty Starlight Biddy, 3rd. I think all little cobby, round things. In ABYSSINIANS Mrs. Carew-Cox took all honours, and swept the board. Mr. House found Ras Djibuti, that stalwart veteran of 11, still superior to his most promising son, Ras Isis (ex Mrs. Buffard's Symy). Aluna came 3rd, and Symy reserve. All very lovely and fascinating cats, with the lustrous eyes of the variety. The kittens were both the property of Mrs. Cox, and most promising. I noticed, too, an Abyssinian neuter. Miss Bretherton, an old exhibitor, got a well-deserved win with Rufus Superbus in RED TABBIES. There was a most beautiful red tabby kitten in Rena (Miss Hill), lovely markings, deep red, and sound chin. Tabbies altogether was a good number. Ch. Brown Sweetheart scored yet again. She is hard to beat. There was a new face, I think, in Timothy Tiger. RUSSIAN BLUES were only two in the male class, neither getting first. Imperial Blue Prince the best of the two. The females were stronger. Ch. Stephanie of Cademuir added another laurel to her crown. She deserved it, I think, as she has a very typical head, good eyes and shape. So many heads in Russians are betwixt and between. In BRITISH BLUES there was one lovely newcomer in Bilateena (1st and c. c.), with a large new male in Scaramouche. One British blue kitten only, but that a very taking one, Glorette; nice round head. BLACKS AND WHITES—Here all old friends except Gorby, I think. Chelsea Orange Pip is a good sound black; short nose and good eyes (1st). In Whites Blythwood Douglas (1) and Chelsea White Ensign (2) have both glorious sapphire eyes, pure coats, and not much to choose between them. Little Fairy Flax gave way to her big son. TORTOISE-SHELLS were not first quality, and stood down to Ch. Evenmark, the tortie and white. There were only four torties and tortie and whites together in one class. Such charming varieties to take up, with such possibilities. There were some fine "Domestic Pets." Two good blacks, and the most massive brown tabby I have seen for many a long day. A silver tabby, and a very

fine lined mackerel tabby; innumerable tiny lines running round the body, a striking and uncommon cat. All were in tip-top condition. I think Domestic Pets always are. Certainly the short-hair is the fireside favourite in homes all over the world, and where could one find a more intelligent and handsome puss?
"SHINGLED."

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

INTEREST in the Manx cat, that riddle of Nature, is certainly growing on the Continent; we wish we could say the same here. As a writer in the "Maux Times" observed, it is really a shame how this quaint, interesting, and very affectionate breed is neglected. Mr. J. Killip, of Douglas, whose advertisement will be found in our business columns, has sent over some very good ones, notably Miss Hill-Shaw's late champion, and would-be buyers can confidently apply to him.

INCIDENTALLY, Mr. Killip sends us a copy of "The Manx Sales and Wants," published at Douglas. This paper devotes a column to extracts from old Manx newspapers. One of them states that in 1808 an "East Country ship was wrecked on Jurby Point, and a rumpy cat swam ashore." It is most remarkable how the shipwreck legend is associated with the tailless cat. Apart from the Noah's Ark stories, we have the Spanish Armada wreck legend; that of the Baltic ship wrecked between Castle Rushen and the Calf; and now this Jurby Point legend, all claiming the origin of the Manx cat. And the American tailless cats, as "Cat Gossip" recently showed, are also ascribed to refugees from wrecks.

WE are amused to observe that a reporter of a contemporary is getting himself into hot water all round as regards "pelts"—which, thank heaven, do not concern us as yet (though how long it will be before they do, taking into consideration the terrible commercialism of this age, is a question!)—and glass in front of pens, and not producing candidates for specials for the inspection of all judges. As regards the glass, we consider an exhibitor should be entitled to take such precaution as well prevent the public from introducing infection-carrying fingers, straws, etc., to cat after cat. Provided no edges project, we doubt if any claim for cut trespassing fingers would stand, but if exhibitors are going to adopt this safeguard we would advise counsel's opinion being taken. The Cat Club de France have found it necessary to erect barriers keeping the public from the pens; this is, however, not practicable in the case of our congested Show Halls. In the meantime we suggest **binding the edges** of glass sheets in the fashion of "passe-partout" photo frames.

A unique fan made of feathers, forming a cat's head with topaz eyes, is the latest whim of fashion in "Gay Paree." This novelty has attracted the fancy of many of the fashionable women of the French capital.—"Cat Courier."



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CAT CALLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Mrs. Cran, in her article a few weeks ago, requested me to correct her if she was wrong in stating that she was the first judge to award a championship to Ch. Bonzo. The award which Mrs. Cran gave him was his 4th, and he was already a full champion before the Croydon Show, at which Mrs. Cran judged. In view of Mrs. Cran's reputation as a judge, I was as pleased at Bonzo's 4th championship as I was at his 1st, and very glad that her opinion confirmed this of Mr. Woodiwiss, Mrs. Kennaway, and Miss Lea, who had made the previous awards. With reference to the subject of Mrs. Cran's letter—inbreeding—it seems to me to open up two distinct points. Firstly, what are the pros and cons of inbreeding? Secondly, what degree of relationship constitutes inbreeding? If Mrs. Cran, from her long experience, would express an opinion on these two points I am sure very many people would be interested—particularly upon the 2nd point. As the owner of Ch. Bonzo I do not feel at liberty to enter into the discussion myself, and the general absence of comments upon Mrs. Cran's letter by other stud owners seems to indicate that they, too, feel the delicacy of the position as much as Mrs. Cran. I write to make the correction which Mrs. Cran re-

quested, and to add my personal desire that she will write again and give us guidance as well as warning.
LLOYD LEWIS.

JOHN OF BEDALE.

I dislike dashing into print, but I do beg you, of your courtesy, to publish this letter. I suppose all successful breeders and exhibitors lay themselves open to malicious tongues, merely by reason of their success. Ever since John of Bedale's triumph at the Crystal Palace last year, rumours as to his having skin trouble and snuffles were deliberately and persistently put about, but as he was passed into the Show last year by competent veterinary surgeons, and as the public saw him at those Shows, I took no notice of these calumnies, knowing that I could rely on the good sense of exhibitors to judge the cat for themselves, and to treat this absolute malice in the only way it deserved. But this year's Shows have brought things to a head. Coming back from Croydon Show was a carriage full of breeders, who were discussing stud cats. A personal friend of mine said she sent her queen to John of Bedale. Two breeders, who do not know me, said "I wonder you dare send to that cat. Don't you know that the reason he isn't being shown this year is that he has such virulent snuffles that he can't get past a vet., and that he is a source of infection to every queen sent to him?" My friend, bless her heart, was furious, and gave them the lie direct, and asked from whence their

information came. Of course, they, being honest breeders, were grieved at having made a mis-statement about any cat, and apologised, and told her where the information came from, and asked my friend to let me know what was being said, so that, in all fairness, I could deal with it. Naturally they do not want their names dragged in. I know that the same kind of things were said in the Show Halls at Reading and Croydon, and, of course, it was no news to me to be told from whence the remarks originate. I am not a rich woman, and I cannot use the luxury of the law more than necessary, but I shall take legal advice if very much more is said against John of Bedale. I have not shown him this year because (a) he is still out of coat. The public may remember that he was not in coat until December last year. (b) He had an accident to his eye early in the summer, and the eye still shows a slight scar. When he is in coat I may risk him being put down for that eye scar, and show him, probably, at Newcastle. You all know my address. You can come and see John any time, any day you like. You need give me no warning that you are coming, although I should prefer that you did, because I like to be in when my friends call. The originators of these malicious rumours—and, believe me, I know who they are—will not be welcome, simply because one has to go through my house to see John, and my feelings might get the better of me, and I should hate to be rude to a guest in my own house. I have bred cats for 15 years, and I don't think a word can be brought against my honesty as a seller or as a stud owner. I never suppress facts about my stock, and I've never "stung" a novice. John has sired some of the finest kittens I have seen; not in large quantities, because I limited the number of queens strictly to 20. I do not care in the least if he is a popular stud or not. But for the good of the Cat Fancy, of which we have so much cause to be proud, do let us stick to the truth, and even if certain stud owners are terribly keen on roping in stud fees, they might be a little more careful in the methods they employ—their present ones are so lacking in finesse! Anyway, John has not got skin trouble, snuffles, hydrophobia, rickets, housemaid's knee, or any other obscure disease. I will give anyone the name of my vet. if they don't believe me. Better still, come and see him, and look at his stock at the Shows. Believe me, I shall show, or not show, exactly as I please. I never like St. Paul very much, he dislikes women so, but he knew what he was talking about when he spoke of the tongue as an unruly little member!

PHYL WADE.

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