

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAU.

Mrs. Basnett—who, by the way, has taken charge of one of the Animal Lovers' League's lethal boxes, which, properly administered, do so much to reduce the terrible total of suffering caused by improper and ignorant destruction of unwanted cats and small dogs—writes us as follow:—"I was very interested in the article referring to so-called chocolate Siamese with golden eyes, recently exhibited at Croydon, and I agree with Major Woodwiss that the darker kittens in the litter were a 'throw-back,' as the mother has an extraordinary colouring for a pure Siamese. Several years ago I mated my queen, Yolanda, to Mrs. Robinson's Bigabois, and in due time six kittens were born, one pure white as usual, and the other five were the colour of a piece of chocolate all over, with no sign of white or a paler colour anywhere. Mrs. Robinson said Bigabois had never before sired any chocolate kittens, and I, not knowing then anything of the chocolate and golden-eyed Siamese, had four of these, as I considered, disappointing kittens put to sleep, rearing only one chocolate and the white one; the latter developed the dark points, and grew in the usual way with blue eyes; the other grew up and never changed his colour, always being a rich chocolate with golden eyes, a perfect wedge-shaped head and slim body, and a tiny hook at the end of his tail. A lady visiting me one day fell in love with him, and I gave him to her, but the village blacksmith had no love for the strange animal, and, watching his opportunity, shot him! Yolanda was six years old when she gave me this strange litter; always before and after this her kittens were normal. She came from Siam before the war, and when nine years old I exhibited her at the N.C.C. for the first time, when she won championship, three firsts, two seconds, etc., proving that as a show specimen she was all a pure Siamese should be, and the dark kittens at Croydon were nothing like Yolanda's real chocolate family." (What a calamity that these kittens were not reared! At the Paris Show we saw most lovely chocolates, far above what we see here; but none, as far as we noticed—we were feeling very ill at the time—with golden eyes. We especially observed a magnificent dark cat—real chocolate colour, grand type, and eyes apparently steeped in

" . . . that dye of dyes
Whereof one drop worked miracles,
And coloured like Astarte's eyes . . ."
—a most lovely and fascinating cat!—Ed.).

Lady Holt tells us she has now quite recovered from the bite she received at the Club Show. Her particular favourite is her ten-year-old neuter, who is full of affection and sympathy. Lady Holt finds it impossible for both herself and her daughter to go away together, as Bogey will not eat or come indoors if thus deserted. He is a good "watch-dog," as if anyone strange enters the garden he gets on the window-sill and growls. He has a passion for asparagus. When his mistress was ill in the early part of the year he pondered upon what he could do for her, and arrived at the conclusion that a live mouse brought and deposited on the pillow might cheer the invalid up considerably!

Miss Amor thinks Kent is a very Siamesey county. She knows of eight owners in adjoining parishes. Her first Siamese died from bronchitis this "summer." Mee-mee, who won a good deal as a kitten in 1924, used to get very excited about shows, and talk volubly about them for days afterwards. Fan-ti is very Eastern and inscrutable. Miss Amor has just got back again Fan-ti's daughter, Mintee, whom she sold as a kitten, and her daughter, Min-tee, by Bonzo. Bin-tee did well at Croydon, but caught a cold there. Miss Amor had very poor luck in breeding in the past three years, and hopes to be more successful in 1928.

Miss Ruby Cooke (Teignmouth) heard of some mysterious Orientals which had arrived in that S. Devon town by the sea, and which were wont to take their airings on leads and wearing little coats. This is how they took exercise coming over on the boat: Twenty-eight times round the deck was their daily march, and they were much petted by all on board. They would appear to be a Siamese and Malay cat mixture, but do not show the tail abnormality of the Malay. One is black, with one amber and one pale yellow eye; and the other black and white. In Penang they had a companion, now dead, whose photo resembles that of a tiny tiger. These two are rather powerfully built, with long whip tails. At night they have their own little bedroom, where they sleep packed in with blankets and hot-water bottles. The English cat at their home exhibits no jealousy, but

rather seems to revere them, and brings in mice, which are laid before them as offerings.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. French (Horsham), whose golden-eyed chocolate kits are exercising the minds of some, has had a painful double accident. First she scalded her hand badly, then the bandage on this caught fire from a broken match. Anent the golden-eyed kit, Mrs. French observes: "The legend of golden eyes for gold and blue for silver is in Miss Simpson's 'Book of the Cat' . . . and the East is full of mystery, and legend, and ceremonial, religious and otherwise, which may seem far-fetched and even foolish to the Western mind." Mrs. French is sending out a Siamese to British Guiana early next month.

Mrs. Veley writes: These special awards at N.C.C. had to be altered, winners not being eligible: Special 77 goes to Litabois, instead of Herself; 108 and 110 to Princess Cleo, instead of Pekois; 111 to Southampton Darboj, instead of Tai-Long.

Mrs. Hindley is receiving no visitors to her studs until the New Year, when they will be advertised in "Cat Gossip," and a new photo, taken by Mrs. Hindley, of Ch. Prestwick Perak, will appear.

Mrs. Allen-Maturin is laid up with a bad chill caught at the Palace; however, she says that doesn't matter so long as Darboj is all right, and continues: "I think some of those who talk most about 'type' bring the roundest-headed and thickest-bodied ones to shows. As a matter of fact, we now have two distinct types of Siamese, both lovely in their way, and if a census of shape were taken the number of round heads would win in a canter. (Alas! and alack!—ED.). . . . Just 20 years ago there was scarcely a cat shown that did not have a kinked tail, the more kinked it was the more it was sought after; now the kink has almost disappeared. Many of the old-time breeders deplore the absence of the kink, as they say it was one of the great characteristics of the Siamese cat. Also, the 'squant'; nearly all my big winners in the past have had squint eyes, and many think it gives a very fetching appearance to the face. Legs should be long and slender, not short and cobby. As for the Temple mark, or saddle, nearly every cat has it, but in some it does not become so apparent till they are adult, and some don't show it much then, as it runs in a blur into the darker fur on the back, but it is a distinctive Siamese mark, and should be recognised as such. The real Temple cat is a very dark chocolate, or jet black; the latter is very rare, and much desired; the black cat has deep golden eyes. Can anyone tell me why an ordinary pair of Siamese cats can produce a jet black cat with golden eyes; two such specimens have been born in England; one of them I have seen, and there was no 'mésalliance' in the case of either. They say a black cat can be got by breeding straight down for five generations; alas, with the present death rate it would be an almost impossible feat."

LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

I have a charming article next week, from the pen of Mrs. Osmond Hill, entitled "My Love of the Persian." It has afforded me much pleasure, and will do so, I feel sure, to many of our readers. Mrs. Osmond Hill was well known in the Fancy under her maiden name of Miss Hilda Hamilton, and I can well remember when I first settled in London that I thought I had never met anyone more devoted to her pets. In those days she had two blue Persian females, Calliope of Inglewood and Babette. They were both dears, but we used often to laugh over Calliope, for she was one of those "dark horses" who always bred winners. Babette was one of her kittens, and a real picture; she became a lovely adult, possessing that even shade of pale blue for which we are now all striving. At the National Ch. Show in 1920 Clytie of Inglewood, Babette's daughter, ran off with that coveted honour, best kitten in show. This was only one of many winners. The late Speedwell Philanderer, sired by Milord o' Mendip, came from Inglewood stock. Mrs. Osmond Hill, although no longer keeping any cats herself, still takes immense interest in those of others, attends committees, and belongs to several clubs. Some day I hope she will be so kind as to become one of our blue Persian judges. But enough, or I may trench on Mrs. Hill's own words.

Edinburgh is, I am glad to hear, thinking of the Cat Fancy. Dandelion of Runnymede, that pretty pale cream, is to mate with a well-bred pale blue queen, and Mrs. Bankley is hoping thereby to preserve the mother cat's sweet shade of blue.

Langton House Peter, blue Persian male kitten, won his third first prize at Holmfirth, Dec. 3rd, much to Mrs. Dodgshun's delight, and she now feels she wavers in her decision to have him neutered. Certainly my advice would be to show him at one of our big ch. shows ere doing so, as thus his value would be ascertained. I am hoping he has been entered for Newcastle.

Miss J. M. Fisher has purchased a new blue queen for the Hadley Cattery—Yonny, daughter of Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet and Fountainblew (now Hendon Cassilda). Yonny was bred by Mrs. Campbell, and was one of those three Graces—who have all done well on the show bench—Hendon Dame Caruthers, winner in France, Hendon Dame Hannah, a consistent winner last season at our ch. shows, are her full sisters. Yonny is a good mother, and in such excellent hands ought to go far. Another acquisition in the near future to this well-known cattery will be Mrs. Yeend's Bab of Bredon, for brown tabby breeding.

We are grieved to hear that Mrs. Gilbert, of Gateshead-on-Tyne, has lost her pretty black queen, Darky Gal, with her litter of four kittens, three of



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which were most promising tortoiseshells. Darky was destined for the coming ch. shows, and she, with Pompilia, were both entered for the National, but though Pompilia was passed by Mrs. Gilbert's vet, as in splendid condition, she was rightly and wisely kept at home. The illness Mrs. Gilbert traced to a poisoned rabbit; the pet dog did not suffer, and fortunately the other cats and kittens escaped. Mrs. Gilbert is a member of the Newcastle Show Committee, and tells me the Secretary reports a good number of entries, so they are hoping for a success and a larger gate.

Mrs. Colquhoun Fitzgerald has taken Pixie of Brodon on breeding terms. This kitten underwent an operation for an ingrowing eye-lash, which detracted from her beauty, but she is bred by Mrs. Yeend from the famous Yveen, and will be most valuable as a brood queen.

Hanham Court news, like its owner, always makes me feel cheery O! Dear old Milord is very fit, and Mrs. Stevens is very proud of his young winning son, Blessing of Culloden, who was brought out for best kitten in show at the Palace, showing that his papa can still be responsible for first-class kits. By the way, the last litter Milord sired this last season was rather a record—a litter of eight for Mrs. Harpur. Moon is very well, and her head as lovely as ever, but though she carried a good coat she is never in show form, as she moults in patches. She is a queer creature, and if she particularly likes you

she shows her affection by biting your nose! A habit, I am glad to say, her kits have not inherited, neither have they inherited her taste for bad language. Being, like myself, a great lover of an open-air life, what she says when she is brought indoors is certainly not fit for "Cat Gossip." Her daughter, Moonlight, is a charming and most loveable young person, and claimed Mr. House's praise at Reading. The other daughter, Plain Jane, is so named because she completely shed her coat, and looked a perfect fright. She is an exceptionally big kitten, but not such a good type as her smaller sister, and has now an abnormally thick coat, as Miss Langston foretold in hearing of her shedding it in that curious manner. I had the fright of my life, for I thought she had some fearful complaint!

Merlin I hope to take to Newcastle. I think he is looking lovely with his great round head, round eyes, and extraordinary fat cheeks. I have never seen another cat keep his chubby looks as he does when dead out of coat even, but he is shockingly late in getting his full coat. I put this down to his being born late in the season—not till July 28th. What do you think? Yes, I still have Russian blues, and have a nice young queen, Boo, I hope to show at the Northern. I did not go to the Palace, as I did not want Merlin to have two days and nights cooped up.

Hillingdon Dr. Beetle, Mrs. McClure's young black stud, is shaping well; she tells me he has a

fine pair of eyes. Deep copper eyes are badly needed amongst the black males at present, so this is good news; well shaped eyes are evident, but colour—no.

I am hoping to give one hint weekly which may be of use to those embarking on our fascinating hobby.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Our home is incomplete without a pet—something to love and fondle—why not a Persian cat or kitten? Decide upon the colour cat you most admire, and go and obtain it, but—(to be continued in our next).

EXMOUTH SHOW.

DECEMBER 7TH.

A very enjoyable little fixture, run, as usual, by Mrs. and Miss Sharland, who have the whole routine at their finger's ends, and work like Trojans in the face of difficulties. Cats and rabbits had a little ball to themselves, free, thank goodness, from the irritating blaring of the poultry; but, owing to poor pens, the first hour's judging was constantly interrupted by rabbit hunts; and when the erring and pertinacious rodents had been captured and replaced, it was a case of all hands on deck to catch cats squeezing through somewhere, one delightful baby L.H. blue being specially expert at escaping, and always joining us with a beaming smile and the plainly expressed remark: "Here I am once more you see!" Miss Ida Davis was "champion," as they say up North, as a steward, quiet, quick, and efficient; I fear her hands were in a bad state at the end of the day, what with cat scratches and kicks from refractory rabbits.

LONGHAIRS, SELF, M. or F., Blue, Black, White—1, Miss Wood, good head, eye colour, blue; 2, small blue queen, Miss Taylor, good head, ears, eye; 3, Mrs. Sharland, blue, aged, nice head, condition poor, loses in eye. All cats in this class poor in coat condition. A.O.C., M. or F.—A gift for Ch. Langherne Felix, not, however, in full coat; 2, v h c, Misses Grant and Trefusis, another Chin., better eye colour than same owners' other exhibit, brighter in colour, but short of coat, fine head; 3, the veteran Prince Peridot, a wonder for his age, but youth will score; r, another of Miss Cathcart's, a really nice little tortie, only just out of kittenhood. L.H. KITTEN, A.V.—1 and 2, Misses Cotterell, Grant, and Trefusis, lovely Chins.; 3, Waterfield, blue, better coat, eye, rounded head, than r. Wood, also nice type blue. SHORTHAIR, open—All Siamese, dark in colour, but good type; 1, Mr. Vaughan, lovely slender type and eye, wedge-shaped head; 2, Miss Bate, another lovely type; 3, Mrs. Hallett, half-length tail, broader skull. A.V. SHORTHAIR KIT—1, Mrs. Mudge, good type dark Siamese, what a little spiffire! 2, 3, Mrs. Hallett, much lighter coats, points less dense, heads rounder; in all these cats the darkest coloured showed best type. Another exhibit was a S.H. blue with dark blue tabby pattern, had it been clearer would have been very pretty. L. or S.H., open—1, L. Felix; 2, winning Siamese; 3, second Chin. A.V. KITS, repeats—1 and 2, winning Chin. kits; 3, Waterfield, blue; r, Siamese. NEUTER, L. or S.H.—1, Mrs. Elliott, nice blue, good head, eye, condition; 2, Miss Frayling, another nice blue, short snub nose, loses condition; 3, Mrs. Killey, another nice all-round blue, pretty kink in tail. Mrs. Pike had a very nice blue in A1 trim; should have done better, but was very cross, would not show and looked sour; it seems he'd been upset by seeing a cat throw a fit; later in the day

he showed well, when too late, a great pity, as he missed his chances; r, a big red tabby. Mrs. Quick. NOVICE CLASSES—Cats or owners were mostly repeats; the Chin. kits winning in novice kits; and Chin. adult in adult novice; 2, Hallett, Siamese; 3, Cathcart, tortie. NOVICE OWNERS—1, Miss Taylor, blue; 2, 3, Hallett, Siamese. BRACES—1, Adult Chins.; 2, Chin. kits; 3, Sharland, blues. BREEDERS—1, Grant and Trefusis, adult Chin.; 2, winning Chin. kit; 3, Taylor, blue. RADIUS (DEVON) CLASSES—1, 2, Cotterell, L. Felix and mate; 3, Prince Peridot and the tortie in L.H. adult. L.H. KITS—1, 2, the Chins.; 3, Waterfield. S.H. CAT OR KIT—1, Bate; 2, Mudge; 3, Hallett, all Siamese. HOUSEHOLD PETS—Good classes of their kind. L.H. ADULT—1, Mrs. Pierce, nice red tabby; 2, Grahame-Price, black; 3, small brown tabby, marks too dense on back. SHORTHAIR—1, Mrs. Reynolds fine ticked cat, see "Gossip"; 2, Mrs. Pierce, quite a nice tabby; 3, Miss Teschner, a blue and white, very prettily marked; r, Clarke, huge tabby and white. SHORTHAIR NEUTER—1, Mrs. Pierce, black, not such good colour as 2, but better head and bone; 2, Puddicombe, another black; 3, Miss Denford, brown tabby. L.H. NEUTER—1, Gooding, blue; 2, nice brown tabby, Grahame-Price; 3, Miss Hart, black, better condition than r, Frost, another black, better in eye colour.

Langherne Felix took cup for best in Show, cup best L.H. adult; some owner's Chin. kit, cup for best kitten L.H. Cup best S.H. adult, Vaughan, Siamese. Ditto S.H. kit, Mudge, Siamese. B.P.C.S. Spoon, Sharland, Chin., etc. Society Spoon, L. Felix. And so ended a pleasant day for myself and my wife, who tried her 'prentice hand at stewarding, under the capable aegis of Miss Davis.

H. C. BROOKE (Judge).

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE "Cat Courier" says: Miss Bea M. Woods, New Orleans, writes that her two new blues, Sir Percy and Fair Maid of Rayleigh, have arrived in perfect condition. These, with Miss Woods' recent purchase of two Speedwell blue kits, give her the leading strains of English blues.

THE same paper tells us that two hundred and fifty cats were bought at a shilling, and after being kept for a time in a wire enclosure and fed on rabbits, turned loose, in the hope of their proving a remedy for the rabbit pest. As yet, the experiment appears successful; but these attempts to upset the balance of nature usually fail in the long run. We prophesy the destruction of much of the small native fauna, and later a plague of cats.

Miss Evelyn Langston writes to say that Mrs. Yeates' blue queen, Winsome Witch, was second in Open Class, not third as stated. And Mrs. Oglethorpe, that it was Blue Ball, not Puff Ball, sold by Miss George.

EVERYONE will regret to hear that Miss M. Hill-Shaw has had to be taken to a nursing home, her state of health being so bad. We fear her devotion to Croydon Show did her no good. Miss H. Hill-Shaw was delighted with the Manx ch. winner, Mankie Spots, which she considers wonderfully typical; but Mrs. Killip grieved so at the sale of her cat, that we understand Miss Hill-Shaw (with typical Hill-Shaw kindness—the Temple Mark, as Mrs. Cran phrased it) is returning the cat to the Isle.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. F.—Yes, the half-fare return from shows only applies to stock sent alone, not to those exhibitors take with them. The action of the companies in not allowing cheap tickets to and from the Palace to be obtainable till 10 a.m. made these practically useless to exhibitors.

L. F. (Horsham).—You ask what to send with your cat on the long journey to British Guiana? It depends so much on whether the lady who is taking it is experienced. We suggest some tins of Chappell's Hemorrhation, some Sherley's Lactol, a bottle of olive oil, or Sherley's Lubrol, in case of constipation, some Spratt's cat foods for a change of diet, some of Spratt's or Sherley's Tonic Pills or Capsules for cats, these being easier to give than powders; also anti-diarrhoea mixture from these firms in case of need.

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