

CAT · GOSSIP

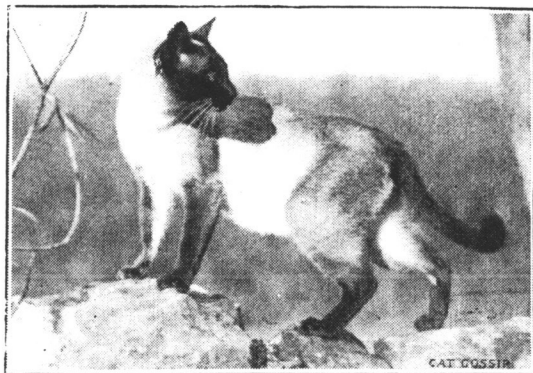
VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 57

JANUARY 11th, 1928

Price 3d., post free



MRS. HINDLEY'S SIAMESE CH. PRESTWICK PERAK.

Mrs. HINDLEY's crack Siamese, Ch. Prestwick Perak, is here shown from a home-made photo which, though we could wish it somewhat clearer, we think shows exceptionally well the excellent type of this daughter of Litabois, who won a large number of prizes as a kitten, including best kit in show at the Club Show in 1924; as an adult she again took best Siamese in Show at Croydon in 1925, where she won her first certificate, her second being at the N.C.C., and her third at the S.C.C.C. She has three times taken the Chee Moo Cup for most typical head in Siamese. Mrs. Cran wrote of her: "An outstanding winner was Prestwick Perak. As I took her out of her pen and felt the lithe supple body, the sleek fineness of the coat, I was glad to have so much sheer beauty in my hands. The head is perfect, wide between the ears, long and wedge-shaped, the 'marten marking' well defined, the eye well placed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We are sure all our subscribers will be glad to hear that we have concluded arrangements by which they can obtain veterinary advice on most advantageous terms. Our Veterinary Adviser is an extremely well-known and up-to-date practitioner, a specialist on feline diseases, on which he has written the most complete work in existence. For full conditions see our business columns; we will here only state that **free** advice and answers to queries will be given in these columns; all such queries must be sent to **us**. Our adviser will reply by post to urgent enquiries,

for a fee of 2s. 6d. only; this fee will also be charged for P.M. Such urgent enquiries, or bodies for P.M. to be sent, **with fee**, to "CAT GOSSIP" ADVISER, 67, Wigmore Street, London, W. 1.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

A PERSONAL APPEAL.

I **BEG** my readers to excuse any shortcomings which may be apparent just now. When they learn that my wife and I have been tied for nine days to the death-bed of my mother, whose estate I have now to administer, with all the attendant worries and formalities, they will see that, especially for a man with no business training, the single-handed running of "Cat Gossip" in addition is no easy task. Till further notice pray write to me at "Durston, near Taunton"; and help me by sending in your advertisements and news items all ready for the printer, written on one side only of the paper, clearly and distinctly, and free from any extraneous matter; also by prompt payment of subscriptions. Every **unnecessary** letter I have to write now is an added burden. Please help me!—H. C. BROOKE. Our dear friend, Miss H. Hill-Shaw, writes: "May I, through the medium of 'Cat Gossip,' try to express the feelings of intense gratitude and appreciation with which my sister (now in 'Barts') and I received the wonderful Christmas gift of £48 12s. from so many of our good friends and fellow cat-lovers. The cheque came at a time when we needed cheering, and I can assure you the kind donors would also have been cheered if they had seen the look of happiness and surprise on my sister's face when I took up her Christmas gift and the letter which accompanied the cheque from our dear President. I expect my face looked the same, but I could not see it! I know how I felt, and shall always feel, towards all who have helped us not only by their gift, but also by their love and friendship and their sympathy at this time."

We are very sorry to hear of the misfortunes which befel Mrs. Higgins (Ipswich), whose L.H. whites were taken ill a few days after the Palace; they all showed the same symptoms (too well-known to us, alas!)—bringing up a little yellow froth, sinking into a comatose condition, and succumbing within a few hours, or a couple of days at most. In all Mrs. Higgins laments the loss of eight promising kittens

and four adults, including White Ladye, who was expecting a litter by Sumurun.

MISS LEA, who is running the S.C.C.C. Show, writes regretting that "Cat Gossip" advertisement is not included in the schedule, although she sent it in to Messrs. Watmough's. We do not know why!

"CAT COURIER" says Sir Thomas Lipton was at Toronto Show, and amused to see an exhibit named after him. Miss "Lavender Blue" Hydon (who, by the way, hails from Bridgwater, near Taunton), by the win of Northledge Cadet at Quaker City, has now bred twelve blue L.H. champions. Not so bad! DEAR friends and sympathisers, please accept thus my sincere thanks for the kind notes I have received from so many of you. I cannot reply to all, but I feel your kindness.—H. C. B.

WE are sorry to hear Mrs. Pike, of Paignton, has lost her lovely L.H., Boy Blue, a frequent winner at Devon Shows. The cause, it seems, was acute ear canker; very possibly this caused him to show temper at Exmouth, where we much regretted having to put back this fine cat on this account.

An Extraordinary Story ("The Telegraph"). "It was a mild and inoffensive ginger cat. It had apparently passed three blameless years of life at the Bermondsey Hospital, and, according to the evidence, had even earned the reputation of being 'timid and docile.' But one day, or rather night, it so far overstepped the bounds of honesty as to steal one of the sandwiches laid out for two of the doctors at the hospital. Thereupon, so the story goes, when the doctors, deprived of their sandwich, endeavoured to catch it, it 'went mad.' They forthwith set out to destroy this dangerous animal, broke cups and saucers, disarranged the whole room, battered and bent the fire-irons, and turned the place into a blood-spattered chaos in their mighty battle. Finally, they killed the thieving cat. They were charged, at the instance of the R.S.P.C.A., with cruelly ill-treating it. **The magistrate dismissed the case.** Most people will agree that comment on the affair would be superfluous."

WE think it a fine example of that ancient asininity, "Justices' Justice." It is to fight against such things, to give the cat a better standing, that the Cat Owners' Protection League, which **every cat lover should join**, was started.—Ed. "Cat Gossip."

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.
(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

I hope all my friends (four-footed and otherwise) have enjoyed a Happy Christmas and have commenced a Prosperous New Year.

The following are the promised notes from Mrs. Osmond Hill, which I quote almost verbatim:

MY LOVE OF THE PERSIAN.

Mrs. Campbell-Fraser has been nice enough to ask me to write a few words on the above subject, and although I feel rather a "back number" nowa-

days, having reluctantly been obliged to drop out of the Fancy, at any rate as a breeder and exhibitor of long-haired cats, it is a subject so near to my heart that I felt I could not refuse the request. Perhaps it would be just as easy to write an article on "My Love of the Cat," because from a small child I have always loved and admired cats of all kinds. In fact, my mother used to say that she though I must have been a cat in some previous existence, as I seemed to be in such sympathy with them, and they with me. We had numerous feline friends when I was a child, but in 1911 I became the proud possessor of my first cat of "high degree" in the shape of a lovely blue Persian kitten; she was given us by a business friend of my father, and so little did I desire to go in for breeding cats that when I discovered that my kitten was—from my point of view—of the unwanted sex, I suggested we should return her to her former owner. This my father would not do for fear of hurting his friend's feelings; and while we were thinking of a way out of the difficulty, the kitten so won her way into our hearts that we felt she had come to stay! When mating time came round we decided that such an aristocratic young lady could not be allowed to make her own matrimonial arrangements, so we sent her to the late Miss Simpson's Blue Britisher—and lo and behold! I was launched into the cat fancy! One of my first friends, and one who gave me much kindly encouragement and help was Mrs. Fisher-White, and I well remember her saying to me that she thought Persian cats were more affectionate and intelligent than—I was about to say, common or ordinary cats, but I must hasten to correct this to short-hairs, before I incur the displeasure of breeders of these interesting and lovable varieties. As I said above, I have hardly ever been without a cat, and we have had some most affectionate and intelligent short-hairs, though I am inclined to endorse Mrs. Fisher-White's statement that long-hair cats on the whole are the most affectionate, if not more intelligent, than the short-hairs. Perhaps this may not apply to those short-hairs bred for exhibition, but more to the ordinary household pet, and I fancy the reason is not far to seek: cats that are exhibited must necessarily lead more restricted lives and receive more handling, and, one hopes, more fondling and attention than the humbler feline who is regarded as an asset to the house inasmuch as he frees it from rats and mice, but who is often not credited with much capacity for devotion or intelligence by his owner. I think all cat lovers will admit that while some dogs will devote themselves to an indifferent or even callous owner, most cats require affection and sympathy before they respond; but when affection has won their heart they are capable of an absorbing passion. I remember the first time I left my favourite cat; she literally went on hunger strike, which lasted so long that I was nearly recalled from my holiday, as my father feared she would pine to death. Eventually she was prevailed



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upon to eat, and turned to my father for consolation, but on my return she directly came to me, and would look at no one else. Having kept Persian cats for nine years I find that their points appeal to me so strongly that I can only admire small erect ears, short snubby faces, and cobby bodies, so that the appearance of a really beautiful Persian cat appeals to me as well as their strongly developed affection and intelligence. I know that Manx and Siamese breeders claim that their favourites excel in these qualities, but as I have never kept either of these varieties, I am not qualified to judge; but—give me a Persian every time!

Mr. Tanks, the household fox terrier, has received the welcome gift this cold Christmas weather of a cosy sleeping rug. The present came as a surprise from the kitten children of his old blue Persian friend, Wuffy. Mr. Tanks and the pedigree blue ladies live on the most amicable terms.

May I remind all my readers who belong to the Southern Counties' Cat Club that the annual subscription, 7s. 6d., is due on January 1st.

Peter Tchikovsky did not forget the feline, for he wrote a delightful fragment, called the "Two Cats."

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

I want the novices and all newly interested in our pets to give me their ideas as to hints they would find most helpful, discoveries they have made, or

questions they would like to ask. Such letters would interest me enormously and make a bond of fellowship.

In the winter time especially warmth to the young kitten is just as necessary as food—draughts and cold will prevent their growth, and will make a kitten look like a wizened old young thing! So if your own feet are cold, don't let little baby puss sit and shiver on the floor.

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG THAI.

We fear some of the Siamese will have been badly served by the cold, though Mrs. Hindley writes that Perak and some of her others thoroughly enjoyed a gambol in the snow; only the young neuter, Pra, sat at the edge of the cattery run loudly voicing his disgust at it; gently placed on the snow he bolted back protesting and shaking his paws. By the way, a number of Mrs. Hindley's cats were filmed in colours, and were to be shown in New York at Christmas.

Of course, the resignation of Miss Busted from the Secretaryship of the S.C.C. is the topic of conversation in Siamese circles. We do not know who is likely to take office for "keeps," but we are sure no Secretary can or will put in more hard work on behalf of the Club than Miss Busted has done, often when she was in great pain and when even to hold a pen was agony, and we are sure that Club members

will bear this in mind when considering what meed of gratitude is due to this lady.

Miss Leatherdale has sold her house at Dulverton, which she found too damp, and is building a house on part of Major Woodiwiss' "Woodroffe" estate.

Mrs. Ellaby writes that the kittens, Horley King and The Moth, have both recovered from their attack of "show fever" after the Palace. King's new owner, Miss Oakeley, is an A 1 nurse, and pulled him through, and he is now always in mischief, as a healthy kit should be. As these kits have survived being shown when 3½ weeks old, and again at 3½ months at the Palace, they really should be inured to showing by now.

The Duchess of Beaufort, we hear, has bought two Siamese kits from a Somerset breeder.

Mrs. Gorst writes that one of her Siamese killed a weasel, and next day was seen attacking its mate; some men approached to help her, when she walked away very stiffly, and the weasel, plucky little beggar, routed the men and escaped. This same cat loves to go roach-fishing with her mistress, and if the first few casts are unfruitful becomes very disgusted, and keeps up a running commentary on her mistress's lack of skill or luck, rising in intensity until a fish is landed. Her first litter of kittens were not pure-bred, and she destroyed these, but reared her next, pure-bred, kittens in good style. When Ro-leo arrived she would not make friends with him for a long time, but now washes his face and tidies him up generally. Mrs. Gorst thinks Siamese kittens are usually wilder and more shy than ordinary kits, and then, of course, if properly treated, become more devoted and affectionate. Mrs. Gorst has had a severe shock through a very beautiful daughter of the above mentioned queen, from which much was hoped, being killed by a car, just before she was due to kitten to Simzo.

THE SACRED CAT OF BURMA.

So many enquiries have reached us about this cat that we venture to recapitulate some of the description first published by us when we edited the cat section of our late contemporary, "Animals," a couple of years ago. The only description of these cats was made known by an English officer, who, many years ago, at the time of the Burmese War, was enabled to protect certain priests whose religion and very existence was threatened, and who permitted him to freely visit them in their subterranean Temple of Lao-Tsun, in North Burmah, in a district of chaotic labyrinths and awe-inspiring precipices. Here he was enabled to view about a hundred of these cats, which in colour much resemble the Siamese, but have long coats, magnificent bushy tails usually carried squirrel fashion, and white toes on all fours. Their eyes are intensely blue. They are gentle and affectionate to certain persons only; in temperament more placid and less highly strung than the Siamese. They do not willingly mate with other

breeds, the males frequently killing alien females placed with them. A few have been bred in France, but they are hard to rear. Madame Leotardi stating that to rear one kitten in ten is a lucky average. The cat portrayed in No. 56 was evidently not in full coat, the specimens we saw being far more heavily coated and banner tailed.

SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

Miss Busteed having informed me of her intention to give up the Honorary Secretaryship of the Siamese Cat Club, I have requested Mrs. Wade to act in that capacity for the time being. The General Meeting of the Club is arranged to take place on February 1st, and the election of a new Secretary is one of the matters which will be decided on that date. Mrs. Wade has very kindly assented to my request on the distinct understanding that it shall be of a purely temporary nature. All communications may, therefore, be addressed to her at 89, Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.

All subscriptions should, of course, be sent direct to the Honorary Treasurer, Miss Dixon, Southview, Station Road, Thames Ditton.

LLOYD LEWIS, Chairman S.C.C.

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE MISSES HILL-SHAW.

The members of the Croydon Cat Club will be pleased to know that the Christmas gift, a cheque for £48 9s. 6d., has been posted to the Misses Hill-Shaw. The idea was promoted by Mrs. Cran, and approved of by the Committee, and Mrs. Cran tackled the work with a little help. The splendid response of the contributors resulted in this fine gift. It was a happy idea. The recipients deserve all the appreciation that can be shown them, most welcome now in their time of trouble. I have lived beside them for twenty years, and during all that time, to my personal knowledge, have these two ladies devoted their lives to the cat cause, not only to the breeding and show work, but to the cause of the common cat. No little stray, furtive and frightened from wandering and contact with thoughtless people, or purring and trustful, though lost, has ever been denied admission to their home. Each one is sheltered, fed, and loved, and ungrudging pains taken to find a good home. All this means labour, time, and money. No unwanted cat, sick or otherwise, however poor its owner, is refused the blessing of painless extinction, the cost, more often than not, being defrayed by Miss Hill-Shaw, which spells money again, to say nothing of the demands on her strength. It is hard work, and from some points of view very grievous to an animal lover.

Miss Marion Hill-Shaw's health, failing for some time, has broken down. She refused to rest, even taking her place as Treasurer at the Secretary's table at the last Croydon Show, though totally unfit. She is now in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and it is the heartfelt wish of all who know her that the skilled treatment she will receive and the rest will restore her before long to her sister, who, with head held high, is carrying on, despite her worries, in her dauntless cheery way alone.

This generous gift, convincing evidence of the affection and esteem of the contributors, will go far to lighten the clouds now gathered about them, and give them something of the joy of Christmas. The letters sent by contributors were most heartening, and a privilege to read. Kind words and expressions of appreciation came with every cheque. It is only fair to add that Mrs. Cran, in addition to her contribution and her work, defrayed nearly all the expenses, so that nothing was charged on the amount received. I wish all the contributors could see Miss Helen Hill-Shaw's face when she receives the cheque on Tuesday. I shall endeavour to do so.

RUTH E. ALLEN.

Advertising Rates and Subscriptions.

"CAT GOSSIP" is only obtainable, as yet, through the post. Price 3d. per copy, post free. Three months, 3 6; six months, 6 6; cash with order.

ADVERTISEMENTS. Displayed Advertisements, Stud or others, 3/6 per inch, cash, up to 4 insertions; 4 to 13 insertions, 3 4 inch; 13 and upwards, 2/9 inch. Standing Advertisements of Cat Clubs, 35 words, 2 6. Sales, Wants, &c., 1d. per word, minimum 1/6.

PORTRAITS. Cats standing at stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and postage, i.e., from 1 6, according to size, or two done together, £1 2s. 6d. the two. We challenge competition in this offer. For Cats not advertised at stud the portrait fee is £1 1s. 0d. [N.B.—The Blocks become the property of owner of cat, and may be used for printing stud cards, advertisements in Schedule, &c.]

All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor,
 H. C. BROOKE,
 Bishop's Hull, Taunton.
 Assistant-Editor, London Agency, and Book Reviews:
 M. SHERIDAN-JONES, 11, Tunley Road, London, S.W. 17.

"CAT GOSSIP" VETERINARY SERVICE.

OUR Veterinary Adviser will reply FREE, through the columns of "Cat Gossip," to our **SUBSCRIBERS'** queries about their cats; all such FREE queries to be sent as early as possible to "Cat Gossip." **URGENT ADVICE** will be sent by post for the fee of 2 6. This nominal fee will also be charged for **Post-mortems**. In these cases, the query, or the body, **with the fee**, must be sent **direct** to

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 NOTE.—Any bodies sent to "Cat Gossip" will be at once destroyed!

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WEEKLY ENQUIRIES.

H. C., Colindale, is desirous for a prefix, and wants to know conditions?—A prefix or affix is granted by the G.C. of the Cat Fancy, and communications on the matter must be addressed to Mr. H. O. Edmonds, Secretary of the G.C., 69, Hornsey Rise, London, N. 19. To quote rule: The fee for the exclusive use of a distinguishing prefix or affix shall be 10s. 6d., with an annual maintenance fee of 1s., or 21s. without maintenance fee.

Lady Vyvyan, whose death has just occurred, was, like the late Mr. A. M. Shakespeare, a President of the Siamese Club. Her cat, Susan, imported from Bangkok in 1883, was one of the first to come over.

VISIT.

December 25th.—Mrs. Hindley's Siamese Kechil, to owner's Ch. Simzo.

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