

ENGLAND'S GREAT HUMORIST ON PERSIAN CATS.

CAT • GOSSIP

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MISS M. OLDFIELD HOWEY

(The well-known author, interested in Polydactyle Cats).

Block by courtesy of "Eve."

M. Oldfield Howey. Born 1882. Drawing animals as soon as she could hold a pencil. Whilst still a small child discovered with a shock that her food was partly slaughtered beasts. Became a vegetarian. Educated at Weston-super-Mare. Studied animal painting under Frank Calderon in London. Lucy Kemp-Welch at Bushey, and Stanhope Forbes at Newlyn. Favourite sport: Horse-training. On learning the Government's attitude to the demand for Woman Suffrage, and their action in riding down with mounted police fifty unarmed women in London who sought an interview with the Premier, Miss Howey joined the Militant Suffrage Society organised by the Pankhursts, and shortly after received a six weeks' sentence for the crime of walking with another lady towards the House of Commons.

All this time Miss Howey had the Anti-vivisection cause at heart, and hoped to find for it an effective weapon by achieving the emancipation of women. She was also working for the ideal of the sacred unity of man with all that lives, by means of her pictures. The "Birmingham Gazette" of 17-4-17 said of her work, then exhibited at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists: "It intensifies the grandeur of our national ideals . . . by simple symbolism suggests a spirit-world of man's noble war-ally, the patient, faithful horse." Miss Howey's literary work has the same end in view. "The Horse in Magic and Myth" brought together evidence that horses exist in every sphere of the Unseen probed by man. "The Encircled Serpent" proved the unity of all with the Divine. The volume now being written is on the occult lore of the cat. This is Miss Howey's favourite animal, and the one that first proved to her that animals are truly our lesser brethren, and survive bodily death.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

News from Alnwick: Mrs. Carlisle's little family of cats have an exceptionally happy life, living in the house as the great pets of herself and her husband. John, the father of the families, is registered as Manchester Jack, and is a big blue fellow weighing 12½lbs. Mrs. Carlisle bought him, when four months old, from Mrs. Kidd, and he is a real big baby, loving to be made much of. He accompanies his master, to whom he is devoted, round the house at closing time, and if a door appears hard to open or shut, "Johnny" will push all his weight against it so as to help. Although so gentle, John never allows another gentleman cat to enter, and any stray unwittingly investigating his premises never returns to do so a second time! Behold this doughty warrior at the moment, however, and you will be surprised. There he lies on the couch, surrounded by five blue babies—progeny of himself and Sanny. Sanny was bred by Mr. Freeman, and gives her kittens the lovely eye colour of Barry Blue Prince and Lanark Lad strain. She is an excellent mother, feeding her kittens until three months old, and making them in consequence fine sturdy youngsters. Sanny is quite a personality, and does not make friends with everyone, but has extended the "paw of welcome" to a friend of Mr. Carlisle's in the dog world, who was the means of helping her to catch a mouse; this she has never forgotten, and there are no mice now left about the house.

Mrs. Harvey (Greylands) brought the other day to my notice quite a new danger. She writes: "I was told the other day that lemon is very poisonous to cats. I wonder if you, or any readers of 'Cat Gossip' have ever heard this? My informant, who was very certain about it, went as far as to say a few drops of lemon juice would poison a cat! If there is any truth in this statement one ought to be very careful when giving fish from the table that it has not any lemon on it."

An advantageous addition. I see we have now an up-to-date Veterinary adviser. I think his views on the above would be of moment to us all—if he would be so kind.

A breeder of that fascinating species, the cream Persian, Mrs. Longhurst has adopted the latter portion of her own name as her affix—thus her 14

months old future stud is Bennihurst, a handsome son of Ch. Endymion and Audrey of the Balcony. He made some record at Newcastle, and though rather small for his age, is now broadening out and growing finely; his beautiful deep orange eyes look lovely in his pale cream coat, and he much resembles his daddy. Fawnhurst, the pretty blue cream queen, was bred by Mrs. Fitzgerald, and hails from the Land o' Cakes; her charming little daughter, Babminhurst, Mrs. Longhurst hopes later will visit Mrs. Yeend's handsome Mick. Babminhurst was another Endymion baby, and took a special for best blue cream at the Northern Show, so has begun well, as the proud little lady is not yet quite 8 months old.

An added attraction to the coming Champion Show of the Southern Counties, at Kentish Town, will be the display of the Club's handsome challenge trophies, which number in all 16, in many unique silver designs.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

If a young queen desires to mate earlier than nine months, I should hold her back, but certainly do not do so a second time.

L.N.W.C.C.C. SHOW.

The A.G.M. and first Show of the year was held in the Zion Hall, Manchester, on January 7th. The resignation of Mrs. Adams as President, and of Mrs. Dobson as Chairman were accepted with regret, and gratitude for all they had done for the Club. Mrs. Tomlinson was appointed President, and Mr. Woods Chairman for the ensuing year. Mrs. Elliot filling Mrs. Tomlinson's vacancy as Vice-President. New Committee members, Mrs. Jarvis and Miss Buckley.

There were 39 exhibits of excellent quality, and the kitten classes well filled. Miss Buckley's blue male, Lord MacAlpine, well deserved his 1st and 4 specials in the Blue Male Adult Class, the runner-up being Kemlin Mask Marvel, better in eye colour and beautifully shown, but lacking in coat and bone; 3rd, Ashton Tam o' Shanter, huge cat, but out of coat. A.O.C.—1st, Miss Lowe's Lancashire Evening Sunset, an easy win, rich self red; 2nd, Lancashire Merry Lad, cream, good head and heavily coated, but too dark; 3rd, Zebo, black male. BLUE FEMALE ADULT—Mrs. Jarvis, Merry Atholene, good colour, fine head and eyes; 2nd, Mrs. Goddard, Mahalah, very large queen, not quite so even in colour, beautifully shown; 3rd, Mrs. Kerr, Cheetie Blue Bottle. A.O.C., Female—1st, Mrs. Furniss' Wallflower, beautiful shaped tortoiseshell, splendid colour; 2nd, Mrs. Jarvis, Mersey Star of Eve, excellent black, if she had been up against her own colour would have been difficult to beat. KITTENS, under 9 months—Miss Waterhouse, Bevis of Carrington, 1st and 3 specials, beautiful blue kit and well shown; 2nd, Mrs. Comber, Eliza Queen of the May, and special, so perfect, difficult to know where she failed to winner; 3rd, Mrs. Curran, Pip. KITTENS, 6 months—1st and 3 specials, Mrs. Elliot, Kareem. KITTENS, 3 months—1st, Mrs. Comber, also 3rd and special; 2nd, Mrs. Goddard. SHORT-HAIR ADULTS—Mrs. Curran, 1st, Snowball, pure white; 2nd, Thero. NEUTERS—1st, Peter; 2nd, Sandy, owned by Mrs. Danson, two beauties.

Polydaetyles at the M.C.C.C. Championship Show.

By TOM LEON.

As I write, the judging of the 176 exhibits at the Midland Counties' Cat Club Championship Show, held in the fine hall of the Worcester Corn Exchange, is just concluding. The Polydaetyle Class was judged by

Miss E. Langston. There were seven entries, and the awards were as follow:—First prize went to Misses Pritchard and Norrie for their long-haired silver polydaetyle kitten, Vivi, bred by Miss Oldfield Hawey. The remaining exhibits were all the property of Miss Howey, and were placed in the following order:—2nd, Cradley Fairy, long-haired spotted brown tabby; 3rd, Cradley Favourite, long-haired golden tabby; r. C. Fantasy, short-haired silver and white; v h e. C. Frolic, long-haired tabby; h e. C. Felicity, long-haired tabby, and C. Phantom, long-haired black. The judge remarked that the cats in this class had not been placed in order of merit entirely on their polydaetyle qualities, though this had been the first consideration. C. Fantasy would have had first prize, but for the white on her paws. The sound chin of C. Fairy gave her precedence over C. Favourite, who showed a white locket. In fact, they were classified according to the position they would have taken in other sections after the polydaetylism had been taken into account. On these points Vivi gained the first. He also won second in the Household Pets Class. These cats were the centre of much interest and many inquiries as to their origin. The judge told me that she had at one time possessed a polydaetyle cat of her own, which always threw polydaetyle kittens. This persistence in following type seems to be one of the characteristics of the breed.

M.C.C.C. SHOW AT WORCESTER, JAN. 12th.

We had made arrangements, through Mrs. Yeend, for L.H. Worcester report, but the lady who was to do it was prevented at last moment; we regret, but cannot help it.

Best Cat in Show, Ch. Northway Shelmerdine.

Best Kitten in Show, Langherne Daydream.

Amongst fanciers from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. Yeates, Mrs. Sharman, Miss Langston, Mrs. Bazeley, Mrs. Soame, Mrs. Cattermole, Miss Trefusis, Miss Bowden-Smith, Miss Busted, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. McClure, Mrs. Maturin, Miss Beaven, and Miss Wardell-Yerburgh.

The cream kittens, Mab and Mirza of Bredon, were sold, the former claimed at catalogue price, and the latter at a satisfactory figure.

AWARDS.

BLACK, M. or F.—1 and ch., Mrs. McClure, Ch. Jill of Ashburnham; 2, Mrs. Soame, Desert Chief; 3, Mrs. McClure, To-To. WHITE, M. or F.—1 and ch., Mrs. Cattermole, Ch. Veracity of Mayfield; 2, same owner, Beauty of M. BLUE MALE—1 and ch., Lady Eardley Wilmot, Ch. Gentleman of Henley; 2, Miss Langston, Ch. Dion of A.; 3, Mrs. Stevens, Merlin o' Mendip; r. Miss George, Flick-a-Maroo. Blue F.—1 and ch., Miss Fair, Ch. N. Shelmerdine; 2, Miss Langston, Melusine of A.; 3, Miss Wardell-Yerburgh, Nephela of A. N. Shelmerdine won BLUE BREEDERS. BLUE NOVICE.—Mrs. Bazeley, Co'neside Christopher. BLUE LIMP.—Merlin o' Mendip; Northway Ting-a-Ling; Nephela of A. RED TABBY, M.—1 and ch., Mrs. Neate, Red Leader; 2, Mrs. Fosbery, E. Roseom. DITTO, F.—1 and ch., Mrs. Fosbery, E. Rosegay; 2, Mrs. Neate, Scarlet Stripe; 3, E. Rosalind. RED SELF—1 and ch., Neate, Amber Princess; also 2, Ch. Shazada; 3, Adye, Romola of the Balcony. TORTIE, M. or F.—1 and ch., Neate, Mastermaid; 2, Gilbert, Pompilia. TORT AND WHITE—1 and ch., Yeates, The Mock Turtle; 2, Blandford, Gay Sally. CREAM, M.—1 and ch., Neate, Mick of Bredon; 2, Langherne, Ch. Shere Khan o' The Combe; 3, Madame Dolli, Cream Bunne. CREAM F.—1 and ch., Fair, Ch. Meg of Bredon. CHIN, M.—1 and ch., Ch. Langherne Felix; 2, Ch. Cupid of Hyver; 3, Peter of Aldwych. CHIN, F.—1, Dimple of Runnymede; 2, Langherne Sunshine; 3, Silver Mayflower. SMOKE, M. or F.—1, Possum of Runnymede; 2, Golia of Barley Hill. BROWN TABBY—1 and ch., Ch. Garb; Mascott; 2, G. Tabitha.





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SIAMESE CATS AT WORCESTER.

SIAMESE MALES—1 and ch., Mrs. Calvert's Tailong; beautiful head and eyes; he was run very close by Pedro of Petaling; I hope he loses the reddish tone of his body colour; lovely dense points; he is now a full champion. 2 Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling; a very fine cat, with lovely head and eyes; greyish on top of his tail. 3 Mrs. Allen Maturin's Southampton Darboy; lovely head and eyes, but dark body colour, and inclined to have tabby bars on his legs; where are we getting these tabby bars from? r, Miss Busteed's Litason; lovely body colour and eyes, but round in head. v h c, Miss Busteed's Jimbois; if only a first prize had been offered for sweetest tempered cat he would have won hands down! I wanted to play with him and cuddle him all day; good eyes, round head, and speckled round his eyes. c, Miss Busteed's Robinsboi; lovely head, but too blotchy in body colour. SIAMESE FEMALE—1 and ch., Mrs. Cates' Fairo; lovely body colour, heavenly eyes, and wonderful head; a little gem, but she must grow, she's very small. 2 Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling; ran the winner very close; lovely head and eyes, and beautiful body colour; Mrs. Harvey, forgive me for doing you out of the championship, it certainly was a very near thing. 3 Mrs. Cates' Pekois; had the best eyes in the class, but darker body colour than either of the others, and inclined to have tabby markings on her head. r, Miss Chichester's Minerva; densest points in the class, round in head, and eyes rather pale. v h c, Misses Pritchard and Norris, Simparaval; this cat had recently been in a fire, and was so nervous that it was impossible to handle her; she covered herself in a blanket, but as far as I could see, good body colour, rather pale eyes. SIAMESE BREEDERS—1, Mrs. Calvert's Tailong; 2 Mrs. Harvey's Bluebell of Petaling (a little beauty, lovely head and eyes, and good body colour and shape); 3, Miss Chichester's Minerva. SIAMESE NOVICE—1, Mrs. Harvey's Bluebell of Petaling; 2, Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Darboy; 3, Miss Busteed's Jimbois; r,

Misses Pritchard and Norrie, Simparaval; v h c, Miss Busteed's Robinsboi. SIAMESE LIMIT—1, Mrs. Cates' Fairo; 2, Mrs. Maturin's Darboy; 3, Mrs. Harvey's Bluebell of Petaling; r, Mrs. Cates' Pekois; v h c, Miss Busteed's Jimbois; c, Misses Pritchard and Norrie's Simparaval. SIAMESE BRACE, Cats or Kittens—1, Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling and Bonzette of Petaling; 2, Mrs. Cates' Fairo and Pekois; 3, Mrs. Harvey's Marigold of Petaling and Bluebell of Petaling; r, Miss Busteed's Jimbois and Litason. SIAMESE MALE KITTEN, under 9 months (only one entry)—1, Miss Chichester's Jackson; very well grown kitten; good colour and eyes, but a little round in head. SIAMESE FEMALE KITTEN (only one entry)—1, Mrs. Harvey's Marigold of Petaling; good body colour, very lovely eyes; at present her mask is a bit speckley. SIAMESE BREEDERS (Kittens) (one entry only)—1, Miss Chichester's Jackson. SIAMESE NOVICE (Kittens)—1, Mrs. Harvey's Marigold of Petaling; 2, Miss Chichester's Jackson. M.C.C.C. SHORT-HAIR, Male or Female, including Siamese—1, Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling; 2, Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling; 3, Mrs. Allen Maturin's Southampton Darboy; r, Miss Busteed's Litason; v h c, Miss Chichester's Minerva; c, Misses Pritchard and Norrie's Simparaval. M.C.C.C. SHORT-HAIR KITTENS, including Siamese—1, Mrs. Harvey's Marigold; 2, Miss Chichester's Jackson; 3, Mrs. Hawley's Silver Imp; a blue tabby, well grown kitten; not quite blue enough, and markings rather indistinct. N.C.C. A.V. SHORT-HAIR, Cat or Kitten—1, Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Darboy; 2, Miss Busteed's Jimbois; 3, Misses Pritchard and Norrie, Simparaval. NORTHERN, SIAMESE, Cat or Kitten—1, Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Darboy; 2, Miss Busteed's Litason; 3, Misses Pritchard and Norrie's Simparaval. SPECIALS—Mrs. Cates' Fairo won Special No. 5, for best Siamese cat or kitten; Special No. 6, best short-hair cat or kitten; Special No. 67, Club Silver Medal, for best Siamese adult. Miss Chichester won No. 64, Shovelita Remembrance Cup, with Minerva; No. 65, Mikado Cup, for best neuter Siamese, with Litaman;

No. 66, the Chepping Cock Robin Trophy, for best Siamese kitten bred by exhibitor, with Jackson. Mrs. Cates' Petois won No. 68, Miss Busted's Silver Spoon, for deepest blue eyes in female adult. Mrs. Harvey's Marigold of Petaling won No. 69, Miss Dixon's Special, for the most typical Siamese female kitten.

May I say again how struck I was with the wonderfully sporting way in which Siamese breeders and exhibitors take being beaten. They certainly are first-rate "good losers." It is difficult to thank Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey and Mrs. Yeend enough for all their kindness. They had thought of and arranged everything for the judges' comfort. I want also to thank Mrs. McClure ever so much for her very great help in stewarding for me. I did admire the plucky way she stuck to the job after having been badly bitten. She is a topping steward, and made judging a real pleasure.

PHYL WADE.

ENGLAND'S GREAT HUMORIST on PERSIAN CATS.

We are privileged to publish a humorous article on the Persian cat from the pen of the famous humorist, D. B. Wyndham Lewis. We are, of course, well aware that the views therein expressed will be regarded as rank heresy by many of our readers. But custom has decreed that Mr. Wyndham Lewis may poke fun at anyone and anything without offence, a licence of which he freely avails himself. In fact, we were going to say that in this respect he resembles the Sapper of French fame, to whom "rien n'est sacré"—but we err. Never have we known him treat good wine with anything but due respect, and here he is right, for good wine is one of the few things worthy of respect left to us in these blatant days of a decadent democracy, which, as he complains, in its lack of appreciation of what our ancestors honoured, is wont to vitiate its indiscriminating palate with "cocktails."

ON PERSIAN CATS.

By D. B. WYNDHAM LEWIS.

To those who would defend the Persian cat by praising the length or richness of its coat I would reply that one might as well defend a stockbroker for the same reason. Its manners I consider odious; it combines superciliousness with a sardonic and Oriental impassivity which makes it fit companion for the followers of Mahound. It also has to be constantly brushed and pampered. It came into England for the first time in the seventies, which alone is sufficient to damn anything; a vile period full of whiskers and complacency. The people who introduced and raved over the Persian cat read Martin Tupper. Faugh!

The Persian cat is of no use for ordinary magic, nor does it in general take much delight in rattling, being refined. It is as alien to our hearths as a pink peacock. Its yell when trodden on is highly displeasing, and I believe it to work spells of an Eastern kind, full of arabesques and horrible symbols. It is, in its dreadful way, picturesque; but so is our own Manx cat, which by long association with the works of Sir Hall Caine has shed its tail and is sometimes taken late at night for a rabbit. This has made it jerky in its deportment, but evidently anxious to please.

Dr. Johnson would not have bought oysters for a Persian cat, nor would Montaigne have played with one; nor would Du Bellay have written the charming Funeral Ode to his cat for a Persian.

The way to prevent the Persian cat from usurping the place of the black cat, the white, the tabby, the tortoiseshell, and the Manx is to sell it to a rich woman and buy a dog.



FEET OF POLYDACTYLE CAT

(Sketch from life by M. O. HOWEY).

POLYDACTYLE CATS.

By M. OLDFIELD HOWEY.

Although the cat has been the faithful friend of man from the remote past to the present day, she too often has painfully to provide for herself the necessities of existence. Therefore any variation in bodily structure that aids her prowess in capturing and killing her prey is still of immense importance to her. Should she acquire such a useful modification, then, according to the law of natural selection, by which all beneficial variations are preserved, we may expect to find it inherited by her offspring.

Polydactylism is an interesting example of such a variation. The additional toes, with the claws attached to them, are placed at an angle to the true foot, and provide her with a far more powerful grip than the normal type. It may even be compared with that afforded by the human thumb, which,



according to some writers, has been the chief factor in raising man above the brutes. This development is peculiarly valuable to a carnivorous beast, and its acquisition may be contrasted with the loss of several toes, which vegetarian animals, such as horses, sheep, and cattle, have suffered.

The breed of Polydactyle cats, owned by the writer of these lines—some specimens of which are now for the first time exhibited—originated from a cat which was forced to hunt for her living. One of her many kittens was born with this peculiarity, thus obtaining a decided advantage in the battle of life, which Nature was not slow to recognise. Though left to chance mating, 50 per cent. of the newcomer's offspring reproduced the variation, and in later generations the proportion of polydactyle kittens sometimes reached 100 per cent.

The self-supporting, hard-living ancestor of these many-toed cats was a short-hair, and in chilly weather she appeared to suffer greatly from the cold. About 90 per cent. of her descendants have long hair, which provides them with ample protection.

It would almost appear as if Mother Nature had heard and responded to the cry of her courageous, though humble, little daughter, answering the unspoken prayers, as the mother-heart in the uncared-for cat would have wished them answered, by aiding her offspring, not herself.

The Polydactyle cats exhibited in Worcester do not know what it is to struggle for existence. But they inherit and hand on the advantages so hardly won for them by their brave progenitor, and thus keep her memory green.

M. OLDFIELD HOWEY.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

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

VISITS.

SIAMESE. January 7th.—Mrs. Law's Rao:

January 9th.—Mrs. de Lisle Mullen's Yellah: both to Mrs. Hindley's Ch. Simzo.

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