

# CAT · GOSSIP

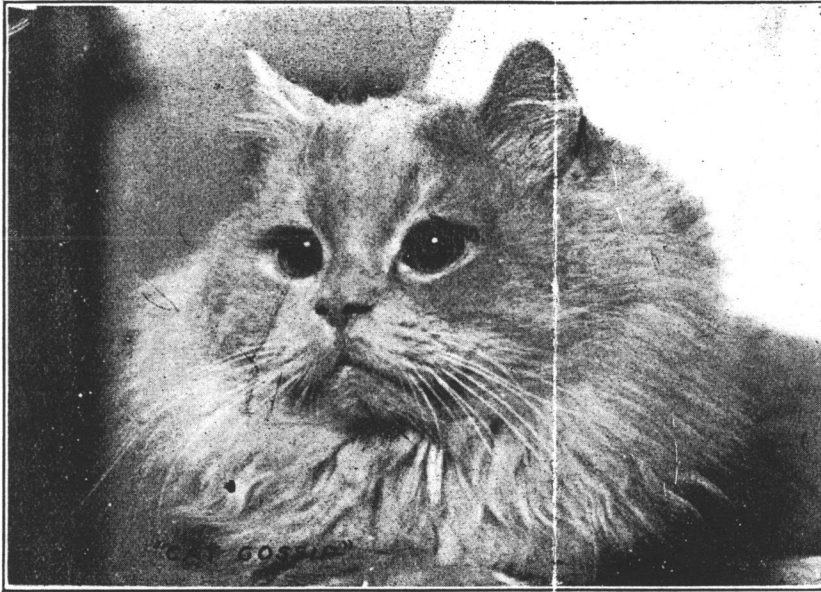
VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 63

FEBRUARY 22nd. 1928

Price 3d., post free



## CH. MICK OF BREDON.

This handsome young cat is a son of Ch. Shere Khan o' the Combe, ex Ch. Meg of Bredon. Born in May, 1926, he was Best Kitten in Show at Madresfield, and Best Male Kitten at Croydon; he was not shown again until Reading, 1927, when he commenced a most successful show career, winning his final Championship at Worcester in January, 1928. He excels in colour and type. He is placed at stud in our business columns. The portrait block is a fair sample of the portraiture we offer, provided a decent photograph is supplied us.

## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE read with great interest Miss Oldfield Howey's spirited defence of polydactylism, but have to confess ourselves unconvinced. The fact that certain polydactyles have been able to make good use of their "extras" does not seem to us sufficient reason to regard this abnormality as a step forward in evolution taken (somewhat late in the day) by the mysterious force, call it Nature, Deity, or what you will, which appears to ordain these matters. The famous comedian, Little Tich, who died last week, was polydactyle; yet, although it appears his extra

digits were of service to him in playing the violin, we are told he was ashamed of them, instead of taking pride in them and assuming that in his person Nature was endeavouring to bring about an improvement in the human race!

MISS LEATHERDALE writes:—"My Little Puma has on her front paws five toes with claws on each, and on the underneath of the wrists a half-formed sixth toe without a claw. I believe if cat owners were to count the toes of their cats a large number would be found to have more toes than they are supposed to have."

WERE it not that fanciers of whites are so few, we should feel surprised that so little interest has been taken in our valued collaborator's suggestion anent golden-eyed whites. At American Shows, equal classification is given for blue-eyed and golden-eyed, L.H. and S.H., and each have championships. We do not know whether it is the white coat, hard to keep nice, or the frequent deafness, which prevents more from taking up whites. If the colour, there is no more to be said; but if it is the risk of deafness, lovers of whites should surely consider the matter. A "greenery-gallery" eye would not be attractive, but really golden eyes would be very nice. Have we

MRS. YEEND'S  
CREAM STUD,  
Ch. Mick of Bredon

many golden-eyed whites in this country? If so, their owners should get together, produce some good ones, get a class given for them, show their beauty, and create a demand for them; then in due course the G.C. must naturally provide for them. We do not know, but will inquire, whether in America the blue and the golden-eyed strains are allowed to mix. If a handsome white cat free from the deafness taint can be produced, we much question the wisdom of the Fancy in rigidly adhering to the blue eye, lovely though it be, which carries in its train the liability to such a disadvantageous property.

### LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

Our minds of late have been much exercised over the nervous exhibition of temper evinced by that beautiful white Persian, Powder Puff of Runnymede, at the Midland Ch. Show, so it is doubly pleasant to see the other side of the picture through the pen of Mrs. Cattermole. She writes as follows:—"A lot has been said or rather written lately about our white Persians. They seem to me the 'step-children' of the Fancy. Very few people seem to like them, and most are afraid of them, yet I cannot imagine a sweeter picture than a lovely white Persian queen with her little family—everything white and pink, no other colour but their beautiful sapphire blue eyes. I find them most intelligent and affectionate. Yes, I know what some of you think, but that's just where you are wrong. They are highly strung, very sensitive, and do not like strangers. That, combined very often with deafness, is what makes the so-called bad-tempered cat in the show pen; this nobody deplures more than myself. Dear old Mr. Miles told me years ago that white Persians ought not to be mixed with coloured cats, and I fully agree with him. I myself have kept blacks and tabbies, but find my whites entirely different; they want a good deal more care and attention in various ways. I have been breeding and showing them for the last nine years, but so far have not found my 'ideal' white Persian yet! I know very well what I want, but, hard as I try, I cannot get it; but keep on hoping against hope, so perhaps in another few years' time may be able to get a 'real good 'un.' I lost a little gem 14 months ago; I nursed her day and night through the 'flu, and just when I had hopes of her recovery, pneumonia set in, as my vet. thought it would, and I chloroformed her. Oh, it was terrible! She had the tiniest little ears, well placed, and the shortest nose I have ever seen in any white Persian. I find the whites difficult to mate, and not prolific breeders, but because they are more troublesome than any other breed, I love them. Their greatest fault at present is their long noses, especially in males, and it is most remarkable how a very nice short-nosed kitten will change suddenly. About three months ago I chloroformed a little female with glorious eyes, but her nose seemed to have outgrown everything else. My luck as regards breed-

ing has been dead out for the last two years; it is always the unexpected that happens, and usually what I do not want. Still, I am keeping them as a hobby only, though a friend said to me recently, 'A hobby is the most selfish thing in the world.' Is it? I wonder."

Before passing on to other topics than the above I must express my pleasure on hearing of Mrs. Reynolds Sams' intention of aiding Nurse Nicholls, whose bitten hand laid her aside from her vocation for a considerable period, causing her severe pain, as the doctors found it necessary to remove certain muscles from the hand. We hope that so useful a member of society will soon be herself again, and may recover the full use of her hand.

At the recent S.C.C.C. Ch. Show, on January 26th last, it may interest readers to know that the S.C.C.C. trophies, which were all on view, were awarded to the following:—Silver Ch. Cup, Best L.H.: Zoe Bell Ch. Trophy; and the Gold Medal, to Miss Langston, Ch. Dion of Allington. Silver Ch. Cup, Best S.H., and the Gold Medal, Mr. J. Taylor, Ch. Evenmark. Silver Ch. Cup, for Best Kitten: Lingmore Breeders' Ch. Cup; Wilson Ch. Cup; Silver Ch. Cup, Best Novice Kitten; and the Silver Medal, Miss Langhorne, Vinolia of Winchfield. Breeders' Cup, for Best L.H. Male, Mrs. Neate, Ch. Red Leader. Breeders' Cup, for Best L.H. Female, Mrs. Aubrey, Ch. Langherne Sunshine. Mah Chool Ch. Cup, for best L.H. Tortoiseshell, Mrs. Neate, Master Maid. Silver Ch. Cup, for Best Chinchilla Kitten, Mrs. Sharman, Jessamy of Coryton. Julia Neilson Ch. Trophy, for Best Blue L.H. Kitten: Silver Ch. Cup Reserve Kitten, Miss J. M. Fisher, Merry Maid of Hadley. Silver Ch. Cup, for Second Best Tabby Kitten, Mrs. Fosbery, Eastbury Gay.

Speaking on stud lists last week, am I right in thinking that the C.S. and S.S. publish a list of their own?

Mrs. Oglethorpe tells me that Princess Nora is going to Miss Evelyn Toms, at Putney, to be kept as a breeding queen; she is sister to Orlando and Orsino, the blue kittens that won first in pairs at Kentish Town. Princess has a lovely head and eyes, is smaller than her brothers, and does not carry a wealth of coat. Mrs. Oglethorpe thought of keeping her, but as she has now Lady Fayre she finds she has not enough accommodation for so large a family.

In that breezy book of Sussex, "The Isle of Thornes," by Sheila Kaye-Smith, the delightful hero, Raphael Moore, "loved cats."

I should very much like to know, says Mrs. Duncan Hindley, for the benefit of future judging, whether it can be taken for granted that all numbers entered in the judge's book are eligible, without verification?—The books provided for the judges should be absolutely correct. Should a judge, however, discover any discrepancy (we are but fallible mortals the best of us!) the formula is for the judge to send his steward with an inquiry to the show manager or secretary.



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**STUD AND BROOD CLASSES.**

TO THE EDITOR.

My previous letter was not written with any idea of criticising the judging. I only wished to draw attention to awards that could only have been made in error, for I fail to see the object of Show Rules if they are not to be observed. Surely **both must be present** is plain enough English, and cannot mean either more or less than it states.

It is not the Show Secretary's business to refuse entries in the classes referred to or to even look if there is any progeny entered previous to the show. Exhibitors as a rule know if any of their cats' progeny are likely to be going to the show before making their entries, and, of course, others take a chance in the hope some may turn up, but it is absurd to say it would not be fair to the owners, not to award the prizes. The onus is on the exhibitor, and he or she must be sure some progeny are going to be present, otherwise their entry fees are forfeited in the stud and brood queen classes if the Show Rule reads **both must be present**.

If an exhibitor enters a cat in a class it is not eligible for, is it up to the Show Secretary to point out the mistake? (In many cases they could possibly detect it.) And, failing this, surely Mrs. Hindley wouldn't suggest that it would be unfair to withhold the prize because the cat's owner has paid

an entrance fee and the Show Secretary has accepted it. The exhibitor alone is responsible for the accuracy of the entry.

E. SYDNEY WOODIWISS.

**Note by Editor.**—Our many years' experience as a London Dog Secretary cause us to agree with Major Woodiwiss. We consider that stud and brood queen classes should be judged by progeny only, without regarding face value of the stud. Otherwise it might happen that a cat useless for breeding purposes might take a stud prize. If an owner enters a stud cat and no progeny appears, that is his, or her, bad luck. In such a case the judge, finding no progeny present, simply marks "No award." Two absurdities too common at our shows are stud and brood classes in which the face value of the stud is taken into consideration, and the Champion of Champions classes, a misleading class which **the G.C. ought not to permit unless all champion cats entered at the show are eo ipso entered in such class.**

**VISITS.**

During January.—Miss Lanchester's **Greycoat**: Miss Shevington's queen: Miss Grayton's **Romulus Roseanna**: Miss Montzambert's **Pippin**: Mrs. Mewitt's **Fairy**: all to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Pish Tush**.

**BIRTHS.**

February 15th.—Mrs. Burke's **Ninka-Me**, five kittens (three males), by Mrs. Harvey's **Pedro of Petaling**.

## SHORT-HAIR IN 1927-8.

BY THE EDITOR.

In the regrettable state of apathy which prevails in this country towards the Short-haired Cat, we fear it is matter for congratulation if we can only say these have not gone back, for to expect progress would surely be asking too much. It is always inconceivable to us that so few take interest in the short-coated varieties, which are so much easier to keep in good trim, might be shown practically the whole year round, and whose markings—in the case of tabbies especially—we think the most fervent adherent of L.H. will not deny?—show up to infinitely more advantage in the close coats. Those pleasant summer fixtures we used to have thirty odd years ago have practically become extinct, and this, we are forced to believe, mainly owing to the craze for L.H. As regards colours, we admit the L.H. show rather more variety, but this must be due solely to the apathy of the S.H. breeders. Though S.H. creams are very few, the existence of the two which usually appear proves they can be obtained; and in an old number of "Our Cats" we found a letter from a person who had over twenty of them in the 'nineties—what a shame they were allowed to die out! Again, we exhibited self-red S.H. years and years before such were seen in L.H. So it is very clear that if only they would try S.H. could be produced in most of the varieties now only found in L.H. We could say more on this subject, but fear it would but be "flogging a dead horse."

To the tabbies, undoubtedly, falls the honour of providing the S.H. sensation of the season, in Miss Bretherton's superb red tabby, Rufus Superbus, who came, saw, and conquered at Croydon and the Palace; we have since bitterly regretted not having claimed this cat, entered at a ridiculous figure; we intended doing so, but hearing from Sir Claud Alexander that he had entered his claim did not care to oppose him. A pity, for even if we had never shown him again—and our loss of the Leopard Cat and Maux after Croydon two years ago has choked us off showing!—such a cat would be a joy for ever merely to look at. Mr. Hough still keeps bringing out some good ones in this section. In brown tabbies, good old Ch. Brown Star still keeps on doing the trick for Mr. Taylor. How lucky for him that the wonderful Joe Beckett was neutered—O crime beyond forgiveness! Egerton House Leoparda still wins for Mrs. McLaren Morrison, a nice "spotted," which, as we pointed out on a previous occasion, when complaints were made of Miss Lea putting her up, is perfectly eligible, as would also be a "mackerel" to win in a brown tabby class. Mrs. Broughton Hawley shows some nice spotted and mackerel tabbies; these, and Leoparda, have very chequered careers. Alas, not one of these cats, even the old crack, has a coloration at all approaching in excellence that of poor Joe Beckett, or his equally ill-used L.H. brother, Mr. Toots.

In silver tabbies, Messrs. Brown and Wilson's Hampstead Sure Again, who was my choice for best S.H. kitten in show last year at Croydon, has, on the whole, kept a good position—a charming cat, rather of the "little gem" order. Mr. Taylor has another good one in Silver Wonder. We do not think the silver tabbies of to-day could hold their own with some of the old-time cracks.

In Maux, our old favourites, despite the death of Ch. Katzenjammer's Ghost early in 1927—though not, happily, before he had sired some good stock—there is, perhaps, a little—a very little—improvement noticeable. On the whole, the winners were much the same as those of the previous season. A new face, which will probably not be seen again, was Mr. Killip's black and white Mankie Spots, which came from the Isle to score the championship at the Palace on the strength of his remarkable "rumpiness." Mona Villish Veen, the odd-eyed white queen, about whose not so very rare oddity the reporters of the Daily Press nearly went mad on the occasion of her first appearance, remains the best queen; her daughter, Ellan Vannin, is also a grand type. In connection with this breed, we received the most arrogant letter we have ever received in the course of our long career as judge, exhibitor, and reporter, ascribing improper reasons to one of our contributors who had described a certain Maux as having a stump; in fact, only the inexperience of the writer prevented us from laying this impertinent effusion before the G.C., as we were advised to do. Not having seen the cat ourselves, we could not, from personal observation, decide on the matter, but that our confidence in our contributor's judgment was not misplaced was proved by the fact that not long after Mr. Ambrose, referring to the same cat at another show, referred to it as having a decided stump. We do not know if Mr. Ambrose became the recipient of any such charming epistles as reached us and our reporter on this account—if he did, we expect he is bearing up bravely under the infliction!

(To be continued.)

## SOME CAT TALES.

BY FRANCIS DICKIE,

The Famous Canadian Story Writer.

(Author of "The Master Breed," etc.)

(Continued from Page 219.)

But perhaps these instances will not seem particularly good evidences of intelligence, so I will relate some others based on personal knowledge and reports of others I have read. On a ranch south of Calgary, Alberta, a friend of mine owned a big black tom cat called Murderer, because the animal had worked out a system of killing which was unique. He killed every male cat for miles around, till all the neighbours were up in arms, several of them having witnessed at a distance these killings, which, contrary to usual cat procedure, took place in open day. However, as the ranches were some little distance

apart, no one knew for sure who owned the killer. Thus his owner, when he caught sight of any visitor nearing the place, always hid Murderer till the guest's departure. Murderer's method was to turn and run when he came nearly to a meeting with a strange tom. If the other pursued, Murderer let it gradually overtake him. When almost upon him, he would stop dead with a wonderful abruptness, in the next infinitesimal fraction of time leaping so as to come down upon his adversary's back, when he sunk his teeth at a certain spot. The owner, who had observed several killings with glasses and the naked eye, assured me in nearly every case Murderer killed with one bite. Here, certainly, is an evidence of intelligence. Murderer worked out a new scheme, and, finding it successful, continued it, perhaps improved it. This cat also had a queer game which he played with those range steers brought to the ranch corral. He would climb the pole in the centre of the corral, and from this leap upon a steer's back, run the full length of his body, and then drop to the ground. This performance he repeated until he would have all the animals in an uproar. He also had a penchant for following the plough; behind which he would walk for hours, stepping sedately along the new turned furrow.

(To be continued.)

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