

Next Week: MISS J. M. FISHER on BLUE PERSIANS.

CAT · GOSSIP

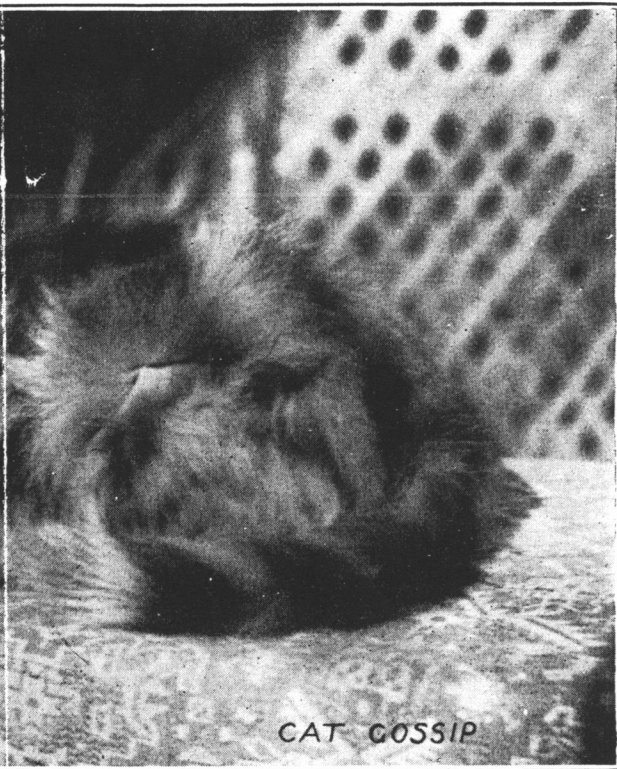
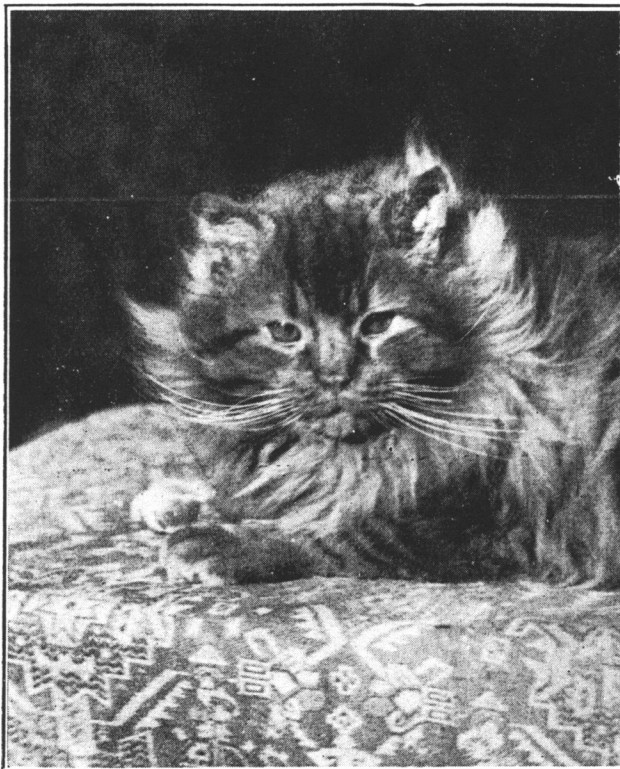
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CAT GOSSIP

Photo: Charles Ward.]

MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER'S "HENDON RED ARATE."

[Copyright.]

HENDON RED ARATE.

This is a particularly robust Red Tabby, with excellent head properties and massive body. He has a good coat, with short and massive brush, and eyes of deepest copper hue. Sired by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's noted Hendon Black Gama (who is still winning in U.S.), thus a grandson of H. Black Guron (Championship winner 1925), who was a black son of that fine old sire of many cracks, Barry Blue John. Arate's mother is a heavily-coated Tortoiseshell queen of Ch. Garboldisham Muske strain, and is a dam of winners. She is grandmother on both sides of "Just in Time," the Red Self which gained the Championship at the S.C.C.C. Show last January. Hendon Red Arate is placed at stud in our columns.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

STIMULATED by Mr. Yeates' suggestion that every L.H. breeder should add one S.H. cat to their stock, Miss Nancy Richardson is offering a free mating to her silver tabby S.H. to the first novice in S.H. reader of "Cat Gossip" writing to claim it. The queen will be returned carriage paid. The cat in question is a large cat with good green eyes, and of good ground colour and nice body markings. MRS. SHARMAN writes that she has purchased Cæsar from Mrs. Newton, this being her first venture with a stud cat. We wish her every success. WE hear that Mrs. Evans will soon be leaving Child's Hill and coming to Taunton. We do not know if her presence will give any fillip to the Cat Fancy here, which at present is non-existent.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

All cat lovers will revel in the following delightful letter from our friend, Mrs. Wade; to hear of the little creatures of various species, making friends and playing happily together makes one "think forward" of that time when "the lion shall lie down with the lamb"—but now for Mrs. Wade's news:—

"I started my cats in 1912, when we lived at Bedale. A patient of my husband's had been a servant of Mrs. Slingsby, and she had given her a blue Persian female, and my husband bought me one of the kittens, thus starting me on cat breeding! I had at that time a fox cub which a poacher patient had brought me. He said it must have rabbits to eat, and proceeded to supply same, but not dead rabbits—oh dear no! Tiny live ones, which he had dug out. Naturally, I couldn't have the fox fed on live rabbits, so I kept them, too, and they had to be hand reared! In the end I had 36 of them, before my husband put down his foot very heavily. The fox had to have butcher's meat, and the kitten, the rabbits, and the cub, together with various dogs, all played about quite happily together. Now I have John of Bedale and three blue ladies—one, Logan Lady, is expecting a family by John. She is a lovely queen by Blair Athol, and was kindly given to me by her breeder, Mrs. Logan. I have a dear little half-sister of John's, out of Mrs. Thompson's lovely queen Juno, and another queen by Thomas of Emberton, out of Ardella of Hawkhurst. Of course, the Siamese rule the roost with a rod of iron! I am a great believer in freedom and fresh air for the cats. None of ours are kept shut up—I could not endure the thought, they are all so friendly, and they love the Pekingese puppies, and all play together. I am very keen on Ostelin, especially for kittens and young cats or for 'bad doers.' I have found it marvellous. I wonder if the Cat Fancy realises how very nearly there was no Ch. Billy Bumpet? I had Tiddly-Winks of Bedale mated to Miss J. M. Fisher's wonderful Ch. Azure, and the result was two male kittens—Bill and another boy, far, far better than Bill. Unfortunately they got gastro enteritis when they were ten weeks old. The best one died, and Billy was so ill that I asked my husband to chloroform him and put him out of his misery. He was very busy, and said 'I will this afternoon, but I've had a sample of some rotten patent medicine sent me to-day; try it on the kitten, and it is sure to do the job for me!' Believe me, living in a doctor's house make us distrust drugs! Well, I tried it, and the kitten improved immediately, and he never looked back. You know what he is to-day. I have the greatest faith in that medicine, and so has my husband. I have saved kittens that I am sure would have died without it, and I give you the name for what it is worth—Lacteol, put

up by Dr. Boucard, of Paris—and can be obtained from John Bell and Croyden. I see they have now Zoo-Lacteol for veterinary use, but I have not tried it. I always give the human dose, as for babies."

Mrs. Neate, of Broad Lane Farm, has now decided to keep her winning queen, Scarlet Stripes, for she says: "I like to have all stock of my own breeding, so instead am parting with Cherry Ripe, her mother." This queen was bred by Miss Waldy, and given to Mrs. Neate when a few days old, so really seems almost a home product.

A brave woman is Mrs. Blanche Berry with her tiny daughter of five months and quite an array of pets in the shape of cats and kittens. Blues are her fancy, and many a pretty kitten hails from Brookside. Of that sweet thing, Brookside Butterfly, Mrs. Berry writes as follows: "I have still got her, and may show her again later. She is such a darling. I have also a promising young son of my beautiful Angy by Milord o' Mendip. He was shown at Henley when three months old, and got second. I hope later to put him at stud; his eyes are glorious. My little Morning Mist, a young queen by Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet, ex Brookside Fluff, yesterday went to visit Sursum of Allington, and I am also hoping to mate one of my queens to Ch. Dion. Babette is to go to see Ch. Gentleman of Henley." A goodly list! I can see Mrs. Berry being somewhat busy within the next few months!

Merry Maid of Hadley, on returning to her birthplace in bonny Scotland, has been re-registered by Mrs. Brunton as Sweet Lavender of Dunesk.

In Mr. Budd, who bought Mirza of Bredon from Mrs. Yeend, the fancy has secured a useful ally and true cat lover. From Miss Grayton he recently purchased two kittens by Flick-a-Maroo, and will, ere long, hope to have a family of black Persians by Zarane, from a daughter of Lancashire Blue Jacket, a female from Mrs. Gilbert's cattery at Gateshead.

Sorry to learn that Langton House Peter, Mrs. Dodgshun's young blue male, has had a severe cold with high temperature; he is, however, now on the mend. Mrs. Dodgshun thinks the winter has been a very trying one for all our pets.

Election of delegates for the B.P.C.S. is now in progress; the present members, who are standing for re-election are Miss J. M. Fisher and Mrs. Wade.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Hang out our banners on the outward walls;
The cry is still "They come."

Shakespeare—Macbeth.

VISITS.

February.—Miss Raper's Kichee; Miss Williams' Tinka-Poo; Miss Webb's Misty Morn of Morton; Mr. Terrell's Siamese queen; Mrs. Buckle's Mao Chun Su; all to Mrs. Hindley's Ch. Simzo.
Mrs. Redfern's Miss Lumfun; Mrs. Hindley's Sing-Song and Ch. Prestwick Perak; Mrs. Coles' Simour; Mrs. Dixon's Kara-Mara; all to Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Puteh Punya.



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SHORTHAIRES IN 1927-28.

It had not been our intention to say anything about the "Australians," as we had some unpleasantness about an absolutely harmless and innocent remark we made about these last November, when commenting on the description of Australian cats printed in the Toronto Schedule. In every Fancy we have been in it has always been our aim and desire to give every encouragement to the "new and strange"—the hackneyed and every day does not appeal to us; we have always sought to exhibit, and to arouse interest in, rare foreign varieties, whether of cats, dogs, rats, or what not. Hence we were doubly hurt by the unpleasantness above referred to, especially as "Cat Gossip" had extended a hearty welcome to the Australians on their appearance, though really we could not see anything particularly interesting about them. However, we see in our contemporary an article about Australian cats which coincides with our views thereon, so if any more "unpleasantness" is forthcoming our contemporary's broad shoulders must bear the larger share thereof. **There are, of course, no native Australian Cats,** the animals usually so called being Dasyures and other Marsupials. Of course, cats of all kinds have been imported into Australia, and are thus in a sense Australian. It seems that some Siamese or Malayan cats did found, years ago, a very distinctive looking Oriental strain, resembling the grey spotted cat of Eastern type we ourselves

possessed thirty odd years ago. When we heard of the arrival of the White Australians here we hoped they might be of this type. We shall hope later to give a picture of one of these cats which did some winning years ago. At best, however, the "Australian Cat" has never been a **breed**, but merely a strain. American schedules sometimes give classes for them, and print descriptions in their schedules (from which we quoted last November); but our colleague of "The Cat Courier" says the cats never materialise. Whilst extending every praise to the efforts of those who tried to work up a variety of Australian cat in this country, we think it a pity they did not interest themselves in some more striking and distinctive variety; there are many foreign domestic varieties possessing far more individuality which might well be taken up and pushed.

SHORTHAIR BLUES IN PAST SEASON.

BY A BREEDER.

Alas, I fear our poor S.H. are getting deeper and deeper into the slough of despond. Of course, much of the trouble is that our kittens do not sell so readily as the Persians and Siamese. The ordinary public, as one actually said to me, "Can get common cats given them." (Yet nowadays the Long Hair is really the most common cat!) This was when he was aghast at being asked 30s. for a really splendid Manx kit.

There were no S.H. blues at Madresfield. At Croydon only two males, and C.C. withheld. Females came up better, Stephanie of Cademuir on top. British blues only three; a new face, Bilateena, did very well, a very nice type. Scaramouche is a large promising male. Only one kitten, Gynette, a nice one. At the Palace they turned up better, Ch. Thistledown winning, followed by Scaramouche, Bilateena showing badly; whilst in foreigners, Mrs. Batt did well; there were also a couple of nice kittens, in Gugnunc and Gynette. One blue British kit at Newcastle. At the Midland Counties a few more, Gynette again winning; Blue Cavalier a new face. Foreign females, Boo of Mendip, a very promising cat of good foreign type. At Kentish Town, three blue British, Foxlaw, a new face, nice type, fails in eye; second, Gynette; Knut, another new one, also fails in eye. The foreign blues there were, I think, the best lot of the season. Mrs. Batt's Imperial Blue Prince got his first Ch. C. There were eight females, all belonging to and bred by Miss Wakeford. It is but a poor season's record for the short-hair blues! The sale of Gugnunc at the Palace, which so annoyed Mr. Hendry when he learnt the kitten was to be neutered, was a misfortune. I see Mr. Hendry is giving up, another blow for this fancy. I have myself vainly endeavoured to obtain a young blue male of foreign type. Fresh blood is very badly wanted in this variety. I thought of advertising for one in French or German papers, but was strongly dissuaded by our Editor, who considers there is no knowing what useless animal might be sent me, possibly in all good faith.

CAT CALLS.

STUD AND BROOD QUEEN CLASSES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Last week I had no time to answer your note. Sorry I did not make myself clearer, as we seem to be at cross purposes. My query was whether a judge should take it for granted that all numbers entered in her judging book should be regarded as bona fide exhibits and be judged as such. I certainly agree that Stud and Brood Queen Classes ought to be judged by their progeny, and I have never disputed the point, but if the secretary in error accepts the cats and enters the numbers to be judged, the question is whether they should be judged or not? Mrs. Campbell-Fraser kindly answered this question for me in her notes. Major Woodiwiss is, however, quite incorrect in stating that secretaries do not check the entries and point out mistakes, as I know that some do. In fact, a kind secretary has done it in the past to me. In this particular case at the Southern Counties Show, the numbers of the cats in the Stud and Brood Queen Classes were entered in my judges' book, and by the side were the numbers of the progeny. Surely Major Woodiwiss

does not mean to suggest that the numbers were not entered by the secretary or her staff? **The numbers of the cats without progeny were also entered in the book** for that class. Why enter the numbers at all if not to be judged? It is not an unknown thing for a cat to be entered in error in, say, Limit Class, when it is not eligible. The show secretary, if she detects this, will advise the owner. If she does not notice it she enters the number in the judges' book. Surely Major Woodiwiss does not wish to suggest that it is the judges' place to disqualify that cat? Whether he knows the cat or not, he will make the awards, and it is then the secretary's place to disqualify the exhibit when she discovers the mistake.

GRETA HINDLEY.

[We think where, for instance, the terms of Stud Class say "progeny must be present," or to that effect, the judge automatically marks "no award" when no progeny is present, because in that case the cat is as ineligible as a white cat in a black class. In cases of doubt refer to secretary, is our advice to judge!—ED.]

SOME CAT TALES.

BY FRANCIS DICKIE,

The Famous Canadian Story Writer.
(Author of "The Master Breed," etc.)

Cats are certainly the most capricious of domestic pets. A lady friend of mine owned a cat which she always addressed very respectfully as "Mister" Brown, and this was the only title he would answer to. If you called him just plain Brown he would glare at you with scandalized look, or pay no attention. Indeed, all visitors to this lady's house—she was rather a famous character upon the bleak Manitoba prairies where she dwelt—always were admonished by her regarding the necessity of addressing the cat as "Mister Brown." This sounds rather incredible. However, I can quote another incident of similar nature, vouched for by the Reverend J. G. Wood. The cat in this case was such an aristocrat that nothing would induce him—not even milk when he was hungry—to put his head into the kitchen, or enter the house by the servants' door.

It may be said without fear of contradiction that cats vary in temperament as much as people. Thus there are dull cats; and, even such an anomaly, as an unclean cat, at times is met with. These differences are particularly marked in matters of taste. My tiger-barred cat was fond of canned tomatoes. A gray tom cat kept by the officers of the 52nd Canadian Battalion while in England contracted a great liking for beer and tinned sardines. After dining and drinking he would walk a tight rope erected in the mess hall. I could go on for pages enumerating peculiar things cats become fond of. But the most diversified creature of the feline family, I believe, is

my present black tom cat. He has more strange and depraved tastes than any creature I ever knew or heard of. He likes bread dough just when it is fresh mixed. When he hears the squeaking of the dough being worked by my mother, he runs at once, calling plaintively. The other evening I saw him make a three-course meal of canned beans, macaroni and cheese, and strawberry shortcake. The first evening I had him home as an eight weeks' old kitten, he gorged himself on the batter of a raspberry pudding well soaked with juice, later to suffer such pangs as I have seldom seen an animal experience. Never was more pathetic sight than that puny mite of black wracked with retching up this too rich and unnatural food. When he was some six months old he astonished us all one night by crossing the room hurriedly and getting upon the knee of a visiting gentleman. Till this minute he had kept away from him, being extremely shy of all strangers. He got upon the man's knee at the moment he was opening his tobacco pouch. He smoked a very fine cut tobacco, some specks of which fell upon his clothes. These the cat ate, and took more when the pouch was laid flat so he could get at the contents. It is a very peculiar incident. The cat had never been taught this. It was drawn clear across the room to a person it ordinarily would have kept entirely away from. Believers in the Buddhistic theory of transmigration would readily explain this: that the owner of the soul in a former state had been much addicted to tobacco. Some time later, when I had quite forgotten the incident, I brought home some cigars in readiness to receive a couple of gentlemen visitors. These I left on the table. Coming into the room half-an-hour later, I found the black cat busily eating at the end of one. He had consumed quite a lot. Later, as a test, I brought cigars into the room in the animal's absence, placed them upon the mantelshelf. Now the only way the cat could reach this was by going to the pantry, where it could leap upon the wide top of the buffet which connected with the dining-room through an opening through which the dishes were passed to save steps. On the dining-room side of the buffet at the end of this entrance was a very narrow ledge, which ran to, and came to an end just beneath, the mantelshelf's wider ledge. The cat could not leap from the floor in the dining-room to this ledge. But by going to the pantry and coming through the buffet opening it could come unto this ledge on a level footing, and make its way along the mantelshelf. And though it was not in the room when I placed the cigars on this shelf, not five minutes after it came in, it cried to go into the kitchen, where it had access to the pantry. And it came through the buffet and went straight to the cigars.

(To be continued.)

BIRTHS.

March 1st.—Mrs. Hindley's Kechil, 4 kittens (3 males), by owner's Ch. Simzo.

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Assistant-Editor, London Agency, and Book Reviews: M. SHERIDAN-JONES, 11, Tunley Road, London, S.W. 17.

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