

CAT · GOSSIP

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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MRS. OGLETHORPE'S BLUE MALE KITTEN, ORSINO OF THE COURT.

The grand youngster whose portrait appears above, was born on July 29th, 1927. He is by Dazzler of Henley, ex Dainty Ladye of the Court. He has excellent eyes, wonderful coat of a sound medium blue, and broad skull. He won the "Speedwell" Cup at the Palace last December, the "Northway" Cup at Kentish Town, also 2nd in Blue Breeders' Class, and 3rd in Blue Male Kittens—and some held him to be rather unlucky at that!

[Note: The sale of Orsino is chronicled in Long-hair Lore.]

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

Exhibitors at the coming Harrogate Show, on April 11th, will be interested to learn that Miss Burton, who is kindly giving her services as judge, has long been a lover of the cat, and that in 1912 she filled the double post of secretary and delegate of the Northern Counties' Cat Club.

Ch. Ginger Belle of Barnsley, Mrs. Adams tells

me, is shortly to be transferred to Mrs. Bryant, who hopes that this well-known tortie queen will continue her winning career; of the other inmates of this Yorkshire cattery, Mrs. Adams continues: "My other pots are Black Susan of Barnsley, who has won one championship, but is rather a disappointment in some ways, although of a wonderful shape and size, and in summer carrying the densest of black coats; no kittens have as yet gladdened me, and now, as her condition has often proved but a snare and a delusion, I shall not pin my faith to her until the family really arrives." (Here I will just remind my readers that Susan is one of Ch. Flanark's best daughters, and her mother was Mrs. Mackenzie's Reginald's Daughter.) "I have a blue queen (seven years old), who is never shown and always at liberty. She has bred some beautiful kittens, one by Milord o' Mendip, and is now expecting a litter before Easter by Barry Prince Blue of Henley. She is an excellent mother, and sure breeder, and has the sweetest of ways. I have recently had the gift of a young tortie queen, not yet registered—unfortunately without pedigree. She is quite nice, I consider, though on the dark side, but I intend to show her, and see what happens, and shall mate her later to a cream stud. Besides the foregoing I have a cream neuter: he and my Cairn terrier are great pals, sleeping and romping together. I have really no cattery in the accepted sense of the word, as I consider a cat is a 'household' animal, and should be treated as such, or they become timid and wild and difficult to handle."

It is with great regret that we hear of the passing of Miss Brown, of Lulworth, Bournemouth, and tender our sympathy to her life-long friend, Miss Baylis. Miss Brown, whose health had been delicate for many years, was a sincere and devoted lover of animals, and the two friends in partnership have bred and owned some beautiful cats. King Leo of Bournemouth, the foundation of their cattery, was a son of Ch. Sir Archie of Arrandale, and Blue Beau of Bournemouth, a more recent stud, carries on the tradition.

The Annual General Meeting of the Southern Counties' Cat Club is to be held on Wednesday, April 11th next, at No. 1, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W. To members wishing to attend, the house lies within ten minutes' walk of Victoria Station, exit from station opposite Buckingham Palace Mansions.

I am glad to hear from Miss Annesley Phayre

that she has a fine silver tabby male, by name Lord Victor of Ormonde, sired by our old friend, Ch. Florizel of Frampton. Victor has a lovely coat, good head, and is altogether a most sweet creature. A handsome young Chinchilla, Woolly Thistle, a recent acquisition from the Misses Grant and Trefusis; two nice queens, and three blue boys. Hazel of Ormond, by Streak of Malvern, gr.-sire Ch. Azure of Hadley, has lovely eyes and a big coat; Topaz of Ormond is a very big cat, bred from the Hyver strain; these, together with some tiny Poms, comprise the merry family.

Will any new members wishing to join the S.C.C.C. send me in their names to enrol before the commencement of the season? Mr. Budd, that energetic fancier, is joining the ranks, and I have much pleasure in proposing so helpful an ally.

Major-General S. F. St. D. Green, C.B., C.B.E., has purchased from Mrs. Oglethorpe that delightful winning kitten, Orsino of the Court. We are wondering what his brother, Orlando, will do without him, for they were a veritable David and Jonathan. A little bird told me that a charming room is being fitted up for the Court beauties. I am hoping to see it myself one of these days, and if you are all very good will tell you about it.

The General, I learn, is a great cat lover, and Mrs. Oglethorpe is happy in knowing that Orsino is to be an especial pet.

Next week: Two letters full of interest from Mrs. Voss and Mrs. White.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Now the little family has arrived, mother is singing her song of joy and cuddling her babes in her arms. She will much appreciate a warm saucer of milk, and this two or three times will quite suffice for the first 24 hours—this and peace to enjoy her own thoughts! Gradually you will find Mrs. Mother becomes very hungry as her little ones make greater claims upon her, this is after the first week. Then it is well to allow a more liberal diet than given to the other cats, and one of our most successful fanciers once told me "Do not increase the number of heavy meals for the nursing mother, but increase the quantities at **each** meal." Barley water and milk and Lactol are excellent and helpful between the heavier meals.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

In view of what is appearing elsewhere about cats' hair for spinning, the following, which appeared in the "Daily Mail" last week, is of interest: "We have made several sleeveless cardigans with dogs' hair lately, but a woman who wanted one made of the combings from her Persian cat was disappointed. We find that cat's hair is not a great success—it will not stand the process of weaving without losing the essential qualities of its texture."

WE learn that Mrs. Veley has secured the stray Siamese found in Regent's Park district, N. of Albany Street. It is a queen, probably a year old or so, darkish even fawn, very dense points, no kink, very blue eyes, typical pointed head, and long shape. She is now almost in good condition again, except for a badly cut hind foot, which is receiving attention. Mrs. Veley thinks it may be a queen which she heard was lost months ago at King's Cross Station on the way to mating, but she does not know her name or address of owner of that cat. The cat was very cleverly caught by Mrs. Barrett, who had been feeding it; it is quite tame now again, and evidently used to a good home, is house-trained, and very gentle. Will anyone who can possibly identify it, or who is willing to give it a good home, please apply to Mrs. Veley, 8, Marlborough Place, N.W. 8. The credit of the rescue is entirely Mrs. Barrett's, who will be delighted if the cat's owner can be found. It was quite touching to see the poor cat's joy at finding itself in a home again, and seeing a fire once more.

MRS. ALLEN-MATURIN (whose stud Siamese enter our columns to-day) writes anent the death of Miss Brown: "Her friend and partner, Miss Baylis, tells me she is keeping Blue Beau and Jasper, and hopes to continue them at stud, also to breed cats and small dogs. Miss Baylis has had to find fresh quarters, and is now living at Inglenook, Cornelius Crescent, Bournemouth, so I hope some of the blue breeders will support her. I have stayed with Miss Brown, and know what a happy home it was, and it is a very sad break-up."

THE studs of Miss J. M. Fisher and Mrs. Voss enter our columns with this number.

SIAMESE column again next week.

SOME weeks ago we referred to the disgusting case at Bermondsey Hospital, when two doctors, returned at night from some festivity, found that the hospital cat had stolen their sandwiches, and proceeded to butcher it with fire-irons in such a manner that the room was like a shambles. We remarked on the ill-fortune of the poor of Bermondsey, left, in case of illness, to the tender mercies of these humane medical men. We are glad to see that the matter has not been dropped, and that a Committee, comprising several members of the British Union for Abolition of Vivisection, addressed a strong protest to the Bermondsey Board of Guardians. This was to be considered at a meeting held last week. We have little hope of any good result, but personally we consider Dr. Eccles and Dr. Purkis, the cat-butchers, would be the last persons in the world any animal lover should ever consult.

BIRTHS.

March 24th.—Miss Richardson's **Flurry Flop**, three typical Manx kittens by Mrs. Aubertin's **Ginger Pop**.



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CHINCHILLAS IN 1927.

BY MRS. SHARMAN.

When our good Editor first asked me to let him have my impression of the progress, or otherwise, of "Chins" during the past season, I refused, as I did not consider—being only one of the outer circle—that they would be of value. However, he insisted, and here they are! So, novices, if your ideas do not conform with these of mine, be not dismayed, as they are not the pronouncement of an "expert."

Originally I showed blues, but, having lost two very precious little people (whom I had not the heart to replace) I was introduced to Chins, and now, of course, I feel they are quite the most fascinating breed of longhairs. What could be more beautiful than a Chinchilla in tip-top show form? The lovely round head, small ears, gorgeous green eyes that are so wonderfully accentuated by the black-rimmed lids, and the beautifully ticked pale silver top coat showing off the pure white under one. And I must not forget the impudent little red nose, that somehow seems to turn up and give a comfortable homey touch to their otherwise fairy-like appearance.

I think the thing we breeders must watch most particularly just now is size. Now by size I do not mean coarseness, for that would absolutely ruin the great beauty of the Chinchillas, namely, their dainty, almost ethereal, look. More bone adds dignity

to the female, without robbing her of grace, and gives to the male the requisite appearance of masculinity. In this respect, though great progress has been made, I feel there is still much to be desired. To my mind the young queens this season were of a better type than the males, many of whom were inclined to be a little long in the nose. The kittens were more than promising, but alas! so many have passed on.

The mortality seems to have been abnormal, particularly among the winning males. To my knowledge Langherne Beau, Prince Charming of Correnden, and Playboy of Allington have died. I had 10 Chinchillas this year, and only succeeded in rearing two to show; one, certainly, was struck by lightning, and two were dropped and badly injured by their too acrobatic mother, but the others just petered out. No doubt the lack of sunshine had a lot to do with this unusual mortality, and this, unfortunately, we cannot control, but there is another very potent source of trouble, that can quite easily be rectified, i.e., draughts at shows! Surely it should be easy enough to have screens covering the entrance doors. These would protect the poor little souls (who are already "nervy" through the journey and the unaccustomed surroundings) from the biting blasts to which they were subjected this season. At only one show did I notice a screen in use, and this was at Worcester. And it is a curious thing—the Chins always seem to get penned in the draughtiest place!

Another thing we need to watch in our endeavours to get purity of colour is that we do not get them too pale, losing their lovely distinctive "ticking," till, as one vet. said to me, they degenerate into "a dirty white." On the whole, I do not think the breed has made great strides this year, and it is certainly gaining in popularity.

To come to the actual winners this season. No new champion has arrived, though I consider both Glitter of Runnymede and Langherne Betty of Coryton, who each won two challenge certificates, had bad luck in not gaining their full championships.

Amongst the males Glitter of Runnymede stands first with two certificates to his credit, no other male having more than one. He is a very handsome young cat of beautiful colour, and good eyes, though perhaps a trifle long in the nose. Peter of Aldwych—winner of one certificate—is a fine fellow, good bone and shape, and had he been more carefully prepared for shows I am sure would have ranked higher. He was better known to me as a sire than as a show cat prior to this season. He is a beautifully made cat, grand head and eyes, but is inclined to be a trifle rusty. Champy of Betley was looking very fine at Kentish Town, where he fully deserved his certificate; he is a lovely colour and shape, though his head is, perhaps, on the delicate side for a male, but he would be an ideal mate for a somewhat coarse queen. Boofa Boy, who won at Reading, is too dark in colour for my taste, and has a rather long face. Ch. Felix is too well known to need comment. Another cat who took my fancy greatly, though he did not win premier honours, was Silver Caesar of Correnden. I think his failure was more the fault of his owner than his, as he was not in "show condition" at Kentish Town. He is a splendid fellow, though his coat is a trifle coarse. I fully expect him to come to the fore next season under his new owner.

(To be continued.)

VETERINARY ADVICE.

Osmond. Q.—Cat, nine months old, caught a cold from her foster-mother when in the nest. Has never been well since. Sneezes, and nostrils discharge thick mucous; breathing bad sometimes, and breath foul. Can anything be done, and will it be passed on to her kittens.

A.—It sounds as though feline distemper was the disease caught in the first instance; and I think the cat now is suffering from diseased turbinate bones. These are fine tissue-like bones in the nasal cavities, and I fear nothing surgical can be done. Injecting one per cent. solution of zinc sulphate up each nostril once or twice daily might help, as also might the frequent inhalation of medicated steam from a bronchitis kettle. A course of arsenic may be helpful, but your local veterinary surgeon should supervise all this. The complaint will not be hereditarily transferred to kittens, and I doubt whether those already born (if any) could contract it. Of course, I am diagnosing in the dark, and my opinion may be wrong.

CROYDON CAT CLUB.

The General Meeting of the Croydon Cat Club was held at Anderton's Hotel on March 29th. Major Woodiwiss in the chair. Members present; Mrs. Cran, Miss Lesley Cran, Mrs. Bazeley, Miss Atkinson, Miss Adams, Mrs. Beavis, Mrs. Carew-Cox, Miss Fairbrother, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Kidd, Miss Langston, Mrs. Jourdain, Miss V. Nichols, Miss Richardson, Mrs. Sharman, Miss H. Hill Shaw, Miss M. Hill Shaw, Sister Stockley, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Wade, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Waber, Mrs. Yeates. The Hon. Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were passed nem. con. The officers of the Club remain as before.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss H. Hill Shaw, then read her report. Thirty-eight new members have joined the Club, but some members have given up cats and some have resigned for other reasons, and some death has taken from us, so that membership is now 132. Several new cups and trophies had during the past two seasons been generously presented to the club. Miss Langston most kindly got up a concert in aid of the Club funds, all artistes giving their services, but broadcasting and weather unfortunately spoilt the attendance, and £8 was handed to the Club funds. Mrs. Fryer, by her garden fête, contributed £5 to the funds. Very hearty votes of thanks were passed to these ladies.

Miss H. Hill Shaw then thanked friends for the Christmas cheque, which all were so pleased to contribute towards as a little appreciation of what the Club owes to the two Miss Hill Shaws for all their unremitting work in the case of the Club and Show. Miss Hill Shaw explained that the prize money was late in being paid owing to the most serious illness of Miss M. Hill Shaw, Hon. Treasurer.

The accounts were then considered and passed.

Miss Atkinson proposed that the Club subscription be raised from 5s. yearly to 7s. 6d., as expenses for running shows become yearly heavier, and the little extra on the subscription should prove a great help. Mrs. Yeates seconded this, and it was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Secretary suggested the voting expenses were heavy, as each member is sent voting paper, balance sheet, etc. The Chairman then proposed that voting papers be not sent out for election of committee, but that the officers should be elected at the General Meeting, two members to retire annually. The motion was defeated. The consideration of a cheaper method of producing voting papers, etc., was left to the Committee.

It was proposed by the Hon. Secretary that the Champion of Champions Class, as not being really what it sets out to be, should be abolished. Miss Langston seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Secretary stated that there has been a little bother over the show date, as the Hall at Croydon has been previously booked for the date suggested, and on November 14th, the alternative date, Spratt's would be unable to do the penning. Miss Wilson suggested Spiller's as penners for the Show, and kindly undertook to make inquiries into the matter, for which a hearty vote of thanks was made. It was decided that it would be inadvisable to let Croydon Show lapse this year, and all voted to hold the Show. The Chairman proposed that a Show Sub-Committee be formed with the object of cutting down all possible expenses, also that the Committee have power to add to their number. These proposals were agreed to.

Miss Wilson and Miss Fairbrother presented a silver cup to the Croydon Club, to be known as the Starlight Cup, to be awarded to best shorthair shown by a novice. Mrs. Jourdain gives the Club a silver cup for best smoke owned by Croydon member. Miss Langston proposed, and Miss Atkinson seconded, a sincere vote of thanks to these ladies for their generosity.

The Chairman spoke in appreciative terms of what a tremendous debt of gratitude the Club owes to the Misses Hill Shaw for all the work done by them for the Show throughout the year. All most heartily concurred. Miss H. Hill Shaw wished to thank all helpers who gave their services so willingly, and one outside the Club who gives great help. The meeting then ended.

Mrs. Cran took the opportunity of mentioning that

she was giving lectures on cats instead of on gardening in the near future, and she would be grateful for photographs of typical cats of any and every breed as illustrations; also for cat stories. Mrs. Cran also generously promised to give a lecture at Croydon, all benefits to go to the Show Fund. Heartily applauded.

VISITS.

January 2nd, Miss Tweedie's **Rosie** to Mrs. Allen-Maturin's **Southampton Darboy**; January 19th, Mrs. McCalmont's queen to **S. Darboy**; January 23rd, Mrs. Maturin's **Sunny Mien** to owner's **Ni-Perm**; January 26th, Mrs. Clarke's **Mitzu** to **S. Darboy**; January 30th, Mrs. Maturin's **Nancybell** to **S. Darboy**; February 6th, Mrs. Maturin's **Martini** to owner's **S. Darboy**; February 16th, Mr. Wicking's **Fairlight Gipsy** to **S. Darboy**; February 10th, Mrs. Mudge's **Sue** to **S. Darboy**; February 17th, Mrs. Masland's queen to **S. Ni-Perm**; March 14th, Mrs. Pilliner's **Sussie** to **S. Ni-Perm**.

March 20th, Mrs. Mackenzie's **Black Dot**; 22nd, Mrs. Hannay's queen; 25th, Mrs. Argent's **Wan Kie**; to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Eastbury Boglie**, **Hendon Alexis**, and **Hendon Sir Despard**, respectively.

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