

# CAT · GOSSIP

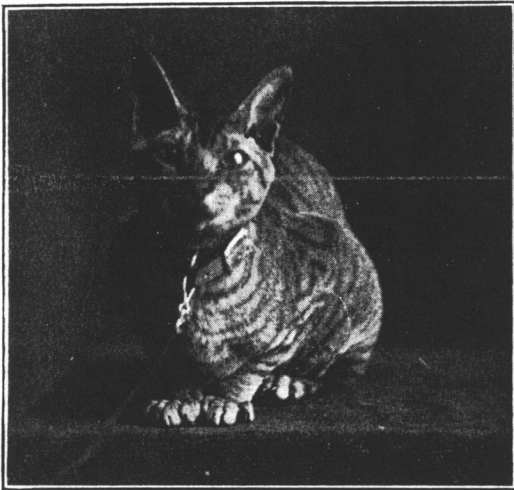
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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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MISS ELSIE G. HYDON'S  
AUSTRALIAN CAT.

## ON AUSTRALIAN CATS.

Miss Sydney Fairbrother returns to the charge re the "Australian" cats in the columns of our contemporary, and as she refers to us by name we will comment on what she says. To begin with, we would remark that the ipse dixit even of a cousin of a Premier is of no value in feline matters, unless the gentleman is also an authority on cats. We take it that Australian fanciers would not be impressed by the pronouncement of a cousin of Mr. Baldwin's on English cats? Further, despite the "gentleman now in Africa," there is **NO native or wild Australian cat!** and science knows nothing of any "spider-cat," rare or otherwise. Miss Fairbrother remarks (apropos of what we do not quite know): "I am not sure what hybrid means unless it be selective or experimental mating." Well, we certainly never suggested her cats were hybrids. The animals sometimes called "native cats" are Marsupials, and are no more cats, or even like cats, than is the "native bear"—poor tiny mite—a bear, or the "Tasmanian wolf" a wolf! The names given by Colonists are often weird and wonderful, and just as unreliable; but from the fact that: A. There is no native Australian cat. B. The animals popularly so-called are Mar-

supials, and no more nearly related to the cat than is a dog—in fact, less so—and consequently incapable of breeding with cats, we obtain the certainty that Miss Fairbrother's cats are by no means a native breed, but simply derived from ordinary cats imported into Australia. Nothing whatever can possibly be adduced to contradict this our plain statement! Now, it is quite possible that in course of time the mating of two different breeds imported into any country might produce a local variety having strongly marked characteristics of its own, which, if carefully bred and fostered, might attain the dignity of a new breed, just as varieties, for instance, of dogs have been produced. Whether the whites now under consideration have thus so far progressed on lines of their own as to deserve separate classification on account of their remarkable characteristics is matter of opinion. We gave offence where none was intended—or, rather, we should say offence was taken where not intended—last year by the harmless statement that the description of the Australian cats given in the Toronto schedule was very different from that of Miss Fairbrother's cats. We are not wont to make definite statements which we cannot substantiate. We refer readers to Miss Helen M. Winslow's book, "Concerning Cats" (1900), where they will find a portrait of a grey tiger-striped cat, of very remarkable and pronounced Eastern type, owned by Dr. H. L. Hammond, of Killingley, Ct., U.S.A. It is there stated that these Australian cats were probably evolved from Siamese imported into Australia, and mated to other cats. We also refer them to Messrs. Hutchinson's "Animal Life," p. 255, where they will find a portrait of a grey, tiger-striped cat we ourselves owned, exhibited, and won with some thirty years ago, which came from Australia. Further, we now present our readers with an excellent portrait of an Australian cat formerly owned by Miss Elsie G. Hydron, of the Lavender Cattery, Bogota, N.J. (well known to many of our L.H. readers). **These three cats were of an exactly similar and very distinct and striking Eastern type.** Our own specimen further announced his Eastern origin by a triply-kinked tail. In these cats we certainly find that a **distinct variety**, possessing very marked characteristics of its own, had arisen (and, we fear, been allowed again to lapse). And though not a "native breed," strictly speaking, it could have been made a breed which Australia could with pride have called her own. We need not labour the difference between

these striking cats and the white Australians shown to-day! Miss Hydon writes of her cats: "We used to have several entered at some of the big shows, and they were queer looking cats, quite distinct from the ordinary S.H. domestic. Their fur resembled the skin of a newly-clipped horse—(here again we see the Eastern origin, compare our own red S.H. Indian cat, whose coat was just like this—ED.)—and they always had the claws exposed, which is very noticeable in the enclosed photograph of my queen, Unique Melba, dam of Melbourne Timmie. She was born in March, 1910. She could never sit still if you even glanced at her, but must rise and come purring and showing every possible sign of affection. Timmie was just like her."

If only someone could obtain specimens of this very interesting variety we should be the first to support their being given a well-deserved separate breed classification!

### LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

I hear that a collection for a challenge cup in memory of Miss Brown, of Bournemouth, is being started, and Mrs. Herbert, of Parkstone, is busy collecting for the fund. I first met Mrs. Herbert at an S.C.C.C. Show, where she was good enough to give me a donation towards the Louis Wain effort, and she and her mother never forget my own particular Club with a gift of "specials." Of her pet cats she has just sent me the following news: "My Grace Golden Eyes has just had a litter by Jasper, five very pale blues, even paler than her last litter by him, which won 1st under Mrs. Yeates at Bournemouth last November. Lady Luck, the pretty kitten I had from Miss Langton, by Wuffy and Ch. Billy Bumpet, is now on a visit to the same sire (this kitten, it will be remembered, was bred the same way as that sensational kit, The Constant Nymph). Cherry Bumpet has been mated to Milord o' Mendip, and our beautiful cream, Marigold, who was bred by Mrs. Yeend, and was the pick of one of Miss Muffit of Hanley's litters, has visited Ch. Mick of Bredon. We were unable to show Marigold all last season, as she was very ill suffering from a bite, which, I am glad to say, is quite cured now, for she is my mother's special pet, and more like a child than a cat. We are having another open show in Bournemouth this November, and I hope it will be as successful as last year. We take 'Cat Gossip' regularly, and thoroughly enjoy it; we were specially amused with the story of the cat adopting the chicken!"

Miss J. M. Fisher, now of Eveley, Hants, is fully occupied in her cattery, several of her queens shortly expecting their spring litters; with Kasha of Hadley it is an accomplished fact, and this handsome daughter of Idol of Hadley is the happy mother of five. Ch. Ivanhoe of Hadley, that grand black, who carries

the finest head of the black studs, is in the pink of health; he and Idol have both enjoyed the change to their new home. 'Tis a most lovely part of the world—in the Hindhead district, and there is a good train service to Liphook.

The Annual General Meeting of the Southern Counties' Cat Club, preceded by a Committee Meeting, was held by the kind invitation of Mrs. Bell, vice-president, at 1, Upper Belgrave Street, on Wednesday, April 11th, and a very friendly and enjoyable fixture it proved to be. The following members were present: Mrs. Allen Maturin (vice-president), Mrs. Sidney Evans, Miss J. B. Langton, Miss Lea, Miss J. M. Fisher, Mrs. Sharman, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Mrs. Yeates (hon. treasurer), Mrs. Campbell-Fraser (hon. secretary), Mrs. Bazeley, Miss L. Stapley, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Campbell-Fraser, Miss E. V. Nichols. A noticeable departure was made in the alteration of the usual Ch. Show date, in order to accommodate the Croydon Cat Club. This year, therefore, the S.C.C.C. Ch. Show will be held on November 8th, instead of, as heretofore, in January. Judges and hall were decided, and the yearly and show balance sheet passed. Unfortunately the show of January last was a grave financial loss, and economy will have to be exercised. Much other business was accomplished, and then the workers felt they deserved the pleasant chat which followed over the teacups, and much we all enjoyed it.

Heathside Bracken and Sun of Flanark are for a space to be under the care of Mrs. Bazeley, in her wonderful riverside home, which must be a picture in its spring dress. Mrs. Bazeley is a fancier and a true cat lover, and no doubt the picturesque surroundings of Weir Cottage help to inspire Mr. Bazeley in his artistic work—some of his pictures on the walls have had the honour of being hung in the R.A.

News from The Maythorpe Cattery, Chester. Mrs. Tomlinson writes as follows: "My queen coming in season late this year I haven't as yet any spring kittens, but hoping to have my first litter by Sandstone, my red tabby queen, who has been mated to King of the Reds, about April 29th. Sandstone won the Betley Cup outright at the L.N.W.C.C.C. Show as a kitten, and pulled off 2nd in the Adult Class at Chester Agricultural Show last year. As she makes herself utterly miserable in a show pen, she hasn't as yet made her debut at any of the Ch. Shows on account of neither my husband nor myself being able to attend last year to coax her into happiness. Mrs. Neate's opinion of her is that her colour is perfect, and as rich as possible, good muzzle, and should make a valuable brood queen. I value this opinion much, coming from such an experienced breeder. My other queen, Lady Maythorpe, I mated to her black son, Zebo, but nothing accrued, and she has now visited an old favourite of mine, Miss Lowe's Lancashire Evening Sunset. I would have liked to have tried Zebo again, but had just sold him to Major Hobart, of Chester, who bought him as a birthday gift for his wife, and when he isn't being absolutely



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spoilt in the drawing-room by his new mistress he is being spoilt by the cook in the kitchen. We really never intended parting with Zebo, but the Major had seen and was so taken with Lady Butler's Upton Rusty, which she bought from us at the Agricultural Show two years next August, that nothing would content him except another little Rusty, so Zebo had to go. Moral: Always breed good stock, it is the best advertisement. There has been much discussion recently about in-breeding. My knowledge on the subject is very limited, but such as it is I give it. I mated Lady Maythorpe to her son, Zebo, last year, and she produced one kitten, a tortoiseshell, and I still have her. She is now eight months old, most intelligent, no trace of imbecility, and colouring and formation of head and body beautiful. I believe she will have a future if all goes well. She battled through all kitten ailments splendidly, and with the exception of a cold in her head she is in lovely condition at the present moment. She is desiring to mate, but I am holding her back, as I think eight months too young. May I endorse Mrs. Elliot's invitation in 'Cat Gossip' to send as many exhibits as possible to Chester Show in August. We all spend an enjoyable day amidst beautiful surroundings, and often sell our young stock to excellent purchasers."

#### AN ENQUIRY.

Will someone kindly give address where "pino-leum blinds" may be obtained.

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

REFERRING to Miss Newton's account of her cats "baiting" for mice, we may say that instances of deliberate bait-laying for victims have been recorded of captive apes, fox, and wolf.

WE give next week a portrait of the "Pom-Cat," recently mentioned by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser.

"CAT COURIER" says: "There are four mongrel dogs who are convinced that Chicopee also houses a canine Benedict Arnold. Said quartet had a cat hemmed in a corner, and were prepared for a good time when another dog launched himself like an avalanche upon them, cast them aside, picked up the cat by the scruff of the neck, and carefully carried her to their mutual home, the four amazed, following at a respectful distance. The cat and dog have been pals for years."

MISS HYDON writes from Bogota, N.J.: "I enclose a year's subscription; am sorry to say a most successful season ended with severe losses. First I lost Hampstead Blue Midget, sister to H.B. Fox and Miss George's Mistress Love. Then my last importation, Herd Laddie, that I got from Lady Eardley Wilmot, died of heart trouble—the autopsy showed a leaking valve. Then my lovely Lavender Phantom died kitting to Hiawatha of Hounslow, and the kits went too."

MRS. SHARMAN writes to point out that on page 272 she wrote: "I do think the breed has made great strides," not, as printed, I do not think. She also

adds: "I have just seen a sample of Cæsar's coat, matted and unmatted. The latter is all that could be desired, not in the least coarse, which only shows how very bad his condition was at Kentish Town."

MISS LANGSTON writes: "Jaquins of Allington is not even a half-brother to Playboy of Allington and Langherne Beau. He is by Langherne Woof, ex Ch. Midget of Hyver, and to those readers who think they have a hopeless brood queen is a good example of 'nil desperandum,' for Midget had produced nothing for four years when Jaquins arrived. Midget thought at first it wasn't worth while looking after just one kitten, but Jack thought otherwise, and at a day old trudged after her, if she walked off to the other end of the run, in the most determined fashion, and soon Midget gave in, and brought him up splendidly. He is a tremendous fellow, and is the apple of his owner's eye, Fraulein Houverbach, of Cologne. Midget, by the way, is again in kitten."

Yet a new cat paper has been started, this time by the Club of Friends of the Cat, in Vienna. The new undertaking, which starts in a very modest way, is to appear fortnightly, and is entitled "Die Katze" ("The Cat"). Our friend M. Armand Steens, that ideal of a genuine cat lover, has ceased contributing to "Chasse et Pêche," owing, we understand, to a difference of opinion with the directorate regarding the destruction of stray cats by shooting them with revolvers (a risky method unless the operator be a skilled shot) to feed the birds of prey in the Zoological Gardens. M. Steens now runs a separate column for the Belgian Cat Fancy in Dr. Jumaud's paper, "Les Tablettes."

WE continue to receive complaints of late of non-delivery of "Cat Gossip," which is posted by us before 4 p.m. every Wednesday. We can only advise written complaint to the Post Office, but this being a Government-run affair it is probably hopeless to expect an improvement!

### TO CURE WEAK OR STICKY EYES IN KITTENS.

Wash the eyes carefully with a little cotton wool dipped in boracic lotion at blood heat, and when perfectly clean and dry apply carefully a very little Golden Eye Ointment, which can be obtained at all good chemists.

This should be done first thing in the morning and last thing at night.

Give the kitten (and its mother) a perfectly clean and thoroughly aired blanket daily, and as much sunshine as possible, and keep free from all draughts. Feed on a light diet—no meat.—M. E. O.

### BIRTHS.

Mrs. Grayton's **Roseanne**, one fine kitten by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Pish Tush**.

### BOOK REVIEW.

"Like colours in the sea, like flowers,  
Like a cat's splendid circled eyes  
That wax and wane with love for hours,  
Green as green flame, blue-grey like skies,  
And soft like sighs— . . ."

A story about a cat—by a cat—for cats to read. Such is "Félise," the latest book, which should be on the shelves of everyone who loves a cat. A delightful book, betraying a rare knowledge of feline character—a knowledge possessed by but very few, and only by those with mentality of finer grain. There is a quantity of good, sound philosophy in it, too—human as well as feline—for it is not merely a study of cat nature, but also of that of woman—those two complex things which have so much in common and whom none can truthfully say they thoroughly understand. Félise's remarks on how to stroke the members of her tribe might be studied with advantage by some of the heavy-handed ones, not unknown even in the Fancy, who handle cats as if they were bales of furs. Delightful, too, are her ideas on the subject of a really well-organised Heaven. She has also observed that "Literary people always seem to like us, I notice, and they write more about us than about dogs—at least, the poets do"—which bears out our above remark about the finer mentality of the real cat-lover. Quaint are her observations on legs—(not feline ones). "Men can seldom have known what treasures lay beneath a woman's skirts until she cut them short! I admire a well-developed calf that is not merely fat, but would just offer enough resistance to make it a perfect surface on which to sharpen one's claws."

A charming book for the leisure hour, if not, perhaps, to be recommended to the "unco' guid!"

H. C. B.

("Félise," by Doli Wyllarde. Mills and Boon, 43, Rupert Street, W. 1. 6s. net.)

### SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAI.

Mrs. Baker (Windsor) writes us: "In connection with Mrs. Bassett's recent remarks in 'Cat Gossip' as to blue-pointed Siamese, I have a son of Donato's who produced two blues in one litter; one I still have, now nearly six months, and still retaining the blue points. I am hoping to breed from him. His sire, *the stud in question* by Donato, has himself no blue points." (See stud column.)

Miss Hobbs (Romford) writes that kittens from her Croham Boi-Bois—Spring Daffodil litter have gone to Holland and to South America. All her cats, she says, run loose, and as she has no garden they play all day on the railway embankment! (Very risky, we should have thought; our stationmaster tells us he cannot keep a cat long, as they always get run over, seeming to become dazed if a train comes

along when they are crossing the line.—Ed.) Daff-dil is now expecting a litter by Bonzo. Their staple food is Saval biscuit meal soaked in gravy or boiled with fish.

Mrs. Basnett has only had one family born as yet, and these have caused much trouble. The queen refused to stop in the place prepared for her, and insisted on sharing Mrs. Basnett's bed; this necessitated a bed being installed alongside for her, when things went well for three weeks, when the queen decided to hand over the care of the kits entirely to her mistress, only washing them morning and night. This entailed their being finished off on goats' milk. Little Nymph is "expecting" by Mrs. Basnett's pale imported stud, Vishnou, who, though highly temperamental, is a very affectionate cat, and very kind with queens. Gentle, owing to Miss Jeffries' ill-health, has been boarding at Croyden; she has six kits by Boi-Bois, and revels in the freedom of five acres of woodland.

**CAT CALLS.**

TO THE EDITOR.

Re veterinary query of "Osmond" in last week's issue of "Cat Gossip," I should like to give my experiences of similar cases in two male Siamese kittens of my own. They were born in April of last year, and contracted distemper from the mother whilst in the nest, which left them with a profuse chronic nasal discharge (snuffles). Different treatments were tried, with no real improvement to either kitten, up to the age of seven months, when my veterinary surgeon informed me that the only thing likely to be beneficial was a course of antogenous vaccine injections. I gave my consent for the treatment to be carried out. The vaccine was prepared at the Burroughs Wellcomes Laboratories, Beckenham, and the course consisted of six injections for each kitten, at intervals of four days each injection. Following the second injection, there was a decided improvement, the nasal discharge diminishing, until finally it ceased, after the last (sixth) injection. Both kittens improved in bodily condition, and grew rapidly from the commencement of the treatment. Should I be unfortunate in again having any cases of snuffles in my cattery, I will have them treated with an antogenous vaccine, and would look forward to a successful issue.

RUBY B. COOKE (Teignmouth).

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE.

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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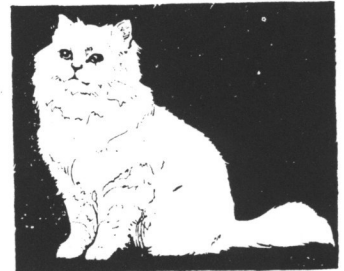
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