

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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LONG-HAIR LORE AND WEEKLY GOSSIP.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

Mrs. Bazeley, who now owns Persil of Winchfield (bred by Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk), full sister to that sensational kitten, Vinolia of Winchfield, has been re-named Colneside Cream Bon-bon, and is destined as a mate for Madame Dolli's Colneside Cream Bunne—whose photograph is shortly to appear in these pages. Cream Bunne is a cat who has done well on the show bench, for he is only awaiting his next first-class honours to make him a full Champion. Small ears, snub nose, and a very chubby face are three of his special features.

Young and old, we all love "Alice in Wonderland." But can anyone say where Lewis Carroll discovered the "Cheshire Cat," and is the some time existence of this cat a fact or a fable?

Six kitten classes are a feature of the Bourne-mouth and District Fur and Feather Society's Show, at Boscombe, on July 4th. Mrs. Allen Maturin is to judge, and Mrs. Kennaway is one of the Vice-Presidents. In the neighbourhood there is an ardent little coterie of Fanciers, so I can see this being a very popular Summer function.

According to the Central News, the members of the International Conference on Rats—scientists who have just met in France to consider the best way of making a world war on these rodents—have decided that the **best remedy** in the world for the rat plague is—the Cat.

Apropos of the above, when living in Sussex I possessed a blue Persian queen, who excelled as a rat-catcher. On a farm, with many outhouses, she found scope unending for her abilities. Perched on some elevated spot, she would watch patiently for the appearance of her foe; then, one pounce and all was over. Certainly she was most humane in her killing, for she never tortured, and no rat ever had an opportunity of retaliation. Dainty Bride ever escaped triumphant and unscathed.

Bubbles of Hanley, Mrs. McWatt's fine cream stud, has several "little Bubbles" growing up around him; Princess Mitze has three nice torties, Winkie of Watt, who is with Mrs. Higgins, had a large family of seven; five are creams, in spite of the mother being by a blue and a blue-cream; Pink Pearl of Winchfield has five kittens, and Rita, a black queen, has her usual varied litter of a blue, a

black, a tortie, and a blue-cream. Mrs. McWatt does not consider the tortie of this family quite as nice as "Wop," who did so well last year, though she has a lovely head, but is a bit "brindled." Just after Easter, when the cold spell came, Sweet Lavender and Play both lost their newly born kittens, partly, Mrs. McWatt thinks, owing to her absence from home; the babes were outside instead of, as usual, in her room. Mrs. Soame has had her lovely Soame Moonstone mated back to her sire, Bubbles, and Bubbles' owner says she will be very interested to hear the result. All the same Mrs. McWatt tells me that Bubbles is a bad boy. When she was ill in bed he took French leave, and stayed out 36 hours, amusing himself incidentally having a scrap with a stray "tom."

The Western Aviary of the Zoological Gardens, London, contains the bird par excellence, to whom we should look for a shade of exquisite "blue." This bird is the "Victoria Crowned Pigeon." They inhabit New Guinea and the adjacent isles; being large birds they pass most of their time on the ground, but make what is termed an arboreal platform nest. The two chief colours in their plumage is a warm claret colour, and this marvellous blue, of which the whole under-body, neck, and chest are covered. **Powdery blue** is the expression which best conveys the ethereal shade; their small well bred heads are crowned by an erectile crest of the lightest of waving feathers, after the nature of the aigrette. The expression "pigeon's milk," which is often considered a mythical appellation, is a home truth among many of the rare and delicate varieties. The young, when hatched, are helpless and nearly naked, and are fed by both parents in the early stages by a milk secretion from the crop—the so-called pigeon's milk. There is quite a flock of the Victoria Crowned Pigeons at the Zoo, they literally "fill the air with blue," and may well be Maeterlinck's Bird of Happiness!

Miss Evelyn Langston is judging 20 classes at the Kitten Show, Sandy, on August 30th.

From Argovie, Tatsfield, Mrs. Lawrence writes: "I'm afraid I haven't very much news, as I have only Sprite (my L.H. blue) and a Russian queen now in the breeding way. Sprite was again mated with Peregrine Pickle this year, for I cannot take her further than Miss Wakeford's, as she simply yells at the top of her voice the whole time she is travelling. She had three girls and a boy, all very big and

beautiful, though it was rather a surplus of girls. The Russian lady had a boy and two girls, but as I had her on breeding terms the boy goes to Miss Richardson. She (**not** Miss Richardson!!) is a perfect demon to other cats or dogs if they put a nose into the place where she is, and although the enemy may be quite big, she is never the one to retire. One of my last year's kittens given to a friend produced a batch of six, one all right, one dead, and four apparently mis-connected—a vet. at the moment might have saved them. From what I hear the Autumn litters are likely this year to exceed those of Spring."

Mrs. Elliot, of Nantwich, has commandeered one of the kittens from Mrs. Tomlinson's (Maythorpe) Sandstone's litter.

Miss Frances Pitt, the authoress, raised (in the "Evening News") several startling thoughts, under the heading of "What our pets really think of us." To some she thinks we are but a necessary **nuisance**, to other, creatures to be **tolerated**, to some, alas! creatures to be **avoided**. All too horribly true, no doubt. Man must descend from his self-made pedestal before he can enter into and understand the wonders, lives, and workings of mind of the four-footed creation. Of the cat, Miss Pitt appears to possess mere acquaintanceship, though she says: "I once had a queer old cat, who seemed to have some personal affection for me."

The S.C.C.C. Ch. Show is fixed for January 24th, 1929, and the following judges have kindly promised to officiate:—L.H. blues, Mrs. Yeates; B. and W., F. W. Western; Chin., S.T., and smokes, Mrs. Singleton; red cream and tortie and B.T., Miss Lea; S.H., F. Norris. Judges for Siamese and other classes not yet decided.

Lady Eardley Wilmot has purchased from Miss Bateman the entire litter of Ch. Gentleman of Henley, ex Nona. This queen has one of the best heads in the Fancy—her nose is of the snubbiest! She is daughter to the late Blair Athol.

Under "Important Purchases" in No. 77 a line was, unfortunately omitted, but should have read: Mrs. Cattermole has also bought a blue cream kitten, grandsire Ch. Azure of Hadley, mother Veeney, Miss Greta King's winning queen.

I hear that Miss Langhorne's Vanity Fair has a lovely litter of four by Ch. Endymion of the Balcony, and we are shortly hoping for further news from the Combe Head Cattery.

The following is the first article to come to hand on "**Kitten Rearing**," and comes from Miss Grayton, Yorks: "When the kittens are about three, or nearly four weeks, I begin to let them just wet their lips with Lactol, and I really find it a good plan to pour the Lactol on to a rusk, then they don't get frightened if they put their noses into the milk too quickly. At first, I only give them Lactol once a day, then, about a week after, twice a day, and at five weeks I give them a little Robinson's patent groats, or Bengel's food. About six weeks I introduce a tiny piece of steamed fish once a day, and at seven

weeks tripe well boiled once a day and fish once a day, making two meat meals and two milk food meals. Robinson's patent groats I make with milk, just mix it with a little water. Sometimes I make them Robinson's patent barley and groats mixed, just for a change, but I'm sorry I cannot lay down any hard and fast rule, as I am depending upon the time I can get the fish, tripe, etc. The kits born last September began with fish, and fish and rabbit at the second stage, instead of tripe. They don't get meat (raw beef) until eight weeks old. Like Miss Langston, I believe in making haste 'slowly.' **Note.**—I generally give the kittens the Robinson's groats for breakfast, having cooked it overnight, but sometimes I have to give them the fish first, and Robinson's groats at dinner-time, but everyone can just give it according to their own convenience. Since eggs have been so cheap (fresh eggs, of course) I give them all some milk, heated, into which (an egg to a gill) has been broken, and for those who will take it I pour it over Force. I find some of them won't have it if I put it on Force, so they just get the egg and milk. I hope the above may be of use to someone."

Before passing from this subject I should just like to remark that the above ought to be a very helpful letter, for, to my certain knowledge, this cat lover is extremely successful in rearing her kittens, and they are strong and healthy, so the diet is a wise one.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Spring Treatment.—With the advent of warmer weather, some alterations are advisable both in feeding and housing of our pets. Speaking of an outdoor cattery, where the Winter nests have been made up with hay, or hay and straw together, straw or newspaper can be substituted. The latter makes an exceedingly good bedding, exceptionally cleanly, easily changed and renewed. Our cats are invariably fond of lying on a newspaper when possible, so thus we pander to their literary tastes! Air should be given in the cattery without stint night and day. Draughts are easily avoided if the pens are placed on one side of the house, the windows on the other. Cats who are loose in their houses will always secure a high seat free from draught, which is a very different thing from ventilation. As the weather becomes hotter, the food should be of a lighter description; if you are feeding adults with butchers' meat, vary it with fish, rabbit, etc., and remember of all things plenty of fresh water. Puss now will love to walk, morning and evening, and if left to himself will set us all a good example by resting when the sun is at his zenith. Both cats and kittens, especially kittens, derive no benefit from rushing about in the heat of the day—in large premises they weary themselves, and to cool, choose, sometimes unwisely, a shady damp spot.

BIRTHS.

May 25th.—Mrs. Campbell-Frazer's **Hendon Ebonette**, five kittens (three black males, two torties) to owner's **Hendon Red Arate**.



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SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY P. WADE.

As we were spending Whitsun at Windermere, I took the opportunity of calling on one of our members—Miss Crossland, Packway, Windermere. She has two Siamese queens, both by Beauty Boy. I do not ever remember seeing more beautifully pale coats in adult cats. They have excellent eyes, and good-shaped heads. The colour of their points is curious, being a rich brown, really most attractive. Miss Crossland is anxious to exchange one of these queens for a queen of different breeding, and if anyone wants to get some wonderful body colour into their cattery, here is a chance. Failing an exchange, she would like to sell one queen. This is a home of real animal lovers. Besides the Siamese, there are some British blues, a very nice Russian, a tabby, and a black, rabbits, guinea pigs, a mastiff, a donkey, and a monkey, who has a heavenly time climbing the trees and playing about at his own sweet will. All the cats live outdoors all the year round in an unheated cattery.

I hear from Mrs. Cates that: "Pekois had four male kittens born on March 26th. One is a particularly well-marked infant, and should do well on the show bench later on. Fairo is also the mother of four, but they are too young to prophecy as to their future."

I have received the following most delightful letter

from Mrs. French. What happy little cats hers must be! "Dear Mrs. Wade,—We have recently removed to a new home nearer Horsham Station and Town, with a nice garden, which the pets much appreciate. This Winter has been a sad one, for early in February a cat visitor was taken in who brought us that dread scourge distemper, and within ten days not only the visitor, but my two beautiful queens, Dee and Dum, were both dead. We still miss them greatly. Grumps, the brown lady from Siam, has two kittens, who were born on St. Patrick's Day, ex Champion Bonzo. Master Timky Brown, her chocolate son by a former mating with Ch. Bonzo, is now growing into a fine big fellow, yet very gentle and affectionate. His eyes are sometimes yellow, and sometimes an opal greeny blue. He is very fond of talking. The ladies, Dinah Doe and Cora Cupps, who sits on laps to take her naps, are creamy fawn, but have very dark points and blue eyes. Cora has a real fish-hook tail. I am hoping to experiment in in-breeding with these three cats, as I want to raise some chocolate cats, Timkey is so much admired. Last, least, and most loved of all is dear little lame Lobi Longsocks. In her kittenhood she fell and became lame, but is the happiest and jolliest of all this very happy family. As the vet. assures me, she feels no real pain, only difficulty in getting about. 'Little Lobi' will, we hope, live to be our darling for many a long day to come. She dearly loves a joke, and laughs and rolls over on her back and waves her long chocolate-colour stockings maddly in the air with glee at anything she thinks

really amusing. Just after we came here Lobi was missing at bedtime, and could not be found in house or garden. After a two hours' search she was discovered in an empty packing case that had contained books in one of the rooms. Of course, she was loved and petted and kissed for joy when discovered all safe, and then climbed on my bed and laid on her back and just laughed for fun. The cats only have two meals a day. Fish in the morning, meat about 6 p.m., and prefer water to milk. They have a good many toys, which are taken all over the house and garden, and I have to go round and tidy up each evening. Lobi has a large black doll made from a stocking, and she uses it as a pillow and wrap when sleeping in her basket. Spectacles, reels of cotton, balls of wool, rabbit paws, and tape measures are all favourites, and it is a pretty sight to see them trotting off down the garden with their treasures in their mouths and trailing them behind them. They are never naughty!—Yours sincerely, Lilla French."

Mr. Wicking has kindly sent me the following notes, called:

SIAMESE CATS IN SUSSEX.

"Before I write a few notes on the above subject I must express my sincere thanks to A. Percival, Esq., of Worthing, for his great kindness and sound advice in all matters concerning Siamese cats. With the aid of his late Champion Slightly I was able to breed two winners in my first litter, Valentine and Iamit. And I think it only right for me to mention Mrs. Allen Maturin, of Southampton. What a wonder she is, nothing too much trouble for her to help all cat lovers, novice and expert, with her sound advice. Being on the road and interested in cats, I have had the pleasure of calling on several well known fanciers in various parts of Sussex. I often spend a very pleasant half-hour with Miss O. Stent, of Worthing. Herself has grown into a lovely little queen, and will soon be mated. Miss O. Stent was very pleased with her litter by Iamit; they have good eyes, and are strong and well, and I believe she is expecting another litter by Champion Bonzo. Mrs. Gourlay, Eastbourne, has a nice litter of four males by Iamit; says best she has bred. I believe the S.C.C. should gain several new members from that way. Mr. Hirst Hartfield states he has a nice litter of six by Iamit; believe it is his first attempt. I think him lucky indeed. S. Ralli, Esq., of Plumpton, has a lovely Siamese queen in kit to Iamit. Christa, who won several prizes at the Club Show, has also been mated, and should have some exceptional good kittens, as both dam and sire are an excellent pair. Dr. Tushy, of Uckfield, has mated his queen with my stud; had she was one of the best-tempered queens I have come in contact with except, of course, my own."

Mrs. Wicking continues these notes: "Iamit is like a great baby; he sleeps in a box in a bedroom, goes to bed at 8.30 each night, and never murmurs until he hears sounds, which means to him 'my turn now.' Then he goes into bed with Mr. W. every morning

to be kissed and fondled for about quarter-of-an-hour. Then breakfast, afterwards to his house in the garden until dinner. He loves to watch the stray cats; that's his only bad, but natural, point, he would kill every one of them. He tolerates Paddy, the pet, a white neuter, but is jealous of him, so we keep Iamit on a lead in the house always when he is about. Yet he lets his own mother and sister box his ears and the kits pull his tail and knock him over, he never retaliates. Each night before he goes to bed he begs to be nursed, and says 'Ma' quite plainly until he is satisfied. Both the queens just worship Paddy; he is a sort of hero to them, and he keeps himself beautiful, he is spotless in his habits and himself. I may add at the birth of Gipsy's kittens Lu insisted on going to her assistance, and washed all her babies for her. I had in the end to put them all together, they have only two between them."

JUDGING CATS AT VIENNA.

"Da oben auf dem Dache da sitzen zwei Kater
Der Ein' ist der Sohn und der Andre der Vater.
Holdrio, etc."

(Old Schnadahupferl.)

Wien! City of laughter and love! Wien! City of infinite sadness! City of light! City of glorious streets, beside whom London appears but an unwieldy mass of murky streets huddled round a tiny patch of temporary brightness! City of music and song! Thou, who wast the last stronghold of real Royalty—and who, alas, hast been doomed to see the throne of the lion crumble into the dust before the onslaught of the poisoned teeth of the myriad squeaking rats of decadent democracy! We, thy humble adorers, thank whatever powers there be that once again, ere "nos habitat humus," it has been our privilege to pay homage to thee!

* * * * *

The princely hospitality of the Viennese has been known to us for years, but, considering how cruelly Fate has of late years served the inhabitants of this beautiful city, we were fully prepared to find it somewhat diminished. We have had, in the course of our varied career, occasion to test the hospitality of many countries, but that which the Viennese extend to their foreign visiting judges is beyond belief. During the whole period of our visit we were accorded almost royal treatment; taken about and shown the sights, lodged, fed, and amused in every way our hosts could conceive. In especial we have to acknowledge the kindness of Frau Rittmeister Schmidt, a most charming lady, wife of an officer of Dragons in the old Austrian Army, who struck up a warm friendship with Mrs. Brooke, and, being able to speak English, took charge of her to a great extent, leaving us free to devote ourselves to our friends: the hospitality of Herr Kommerzialrath Joe Lesti, the proprietor of the world-famous Eisvogel, the premier restaurant of the Prater, who never rested from pressing upon us the choicest delicacies

his establishment could offer; of our other "Duzbruder," Herr Secretary Gloessel, who ran here, there, and everywhere in his efforts to show us all there was to be seen.

Herr Lesti, by the way, is the proud possessor of Ras Tafari, who not only continues here his winning career, but has also created great interest in the scientific world. Going deeper into matters, as is customary with the Germanic nations, and looking beyond the mere superficial "Fancy" side of the question, the scientists have appreciated the enormous interest attaching to the Abyssinian as the representative of the ancient Cat of Bast, and the "Lesti Nubian Cats" have been filmed and made famous on the screen and in the works of Professor Schwargart, the great scientist. Our old friend, Professor Heck, the world famous director of the great Berlin Zoo, went into ecstasies over him when he was exhibited at the International Congress of Directors of Zoological Gardens. Professor Antonius considers him the most typical domestic feline in existence. Only in England, with our narrow outlook, the Nubian or Abyssinian cat is neglected and thought little of.

(To be Continued.)

B.P.C.S.

The Blue Persian Cat Society held the Annual General Meeting at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on May 24th, 1928. The following members were present: Mrs. Yeates (in the chair), Mrs. Bazeley, Mrs. Bergman, Miss Cleary, Miss J. M. Fisher, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Miss Campbell-Fraser, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Osmond Hill, Miss Langston, Miss J. Langton, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Mrs. J. Thompson, Mrs. Wade, Mrs. Yeates, Miss K. Yorke. The balance sheet for the year ending May 1st, 1928, was presented, and the Hon. Treasurer was able to announce that the Society was in a better way financially, having a balance in the bank of £81 15s. Help for next season's Shows was discussed, and besides the usual support of cups, spoons, and badges, it was decided to offer extra third prizes at Championship Shows in all Open Blue Classes of over 12 entries. Mrs. Wade kindly consented to let her name be added to the list of blue judges, and the Secretary was instructed to ask Miss George also to become one of the Society's approved judges. It was decided in future to charge new members an entry fee of 2s. 6d., as well as the 5s. subscription, and that life members would be accepted for a fee of £3 3s. The Committee announced that a resolution had been passed that all cats entered in the B.P.C.S. Stud List must have their registered numbers appended, and that no unregistered cats be accepted. The meeting closed with tea and opportunity for friendly intercourse. The Society's 14 Challenge Cups and Trophies were on show, also Spoons and Badges.

J. M. FISHER, Hon. Sec. B.P.C.S.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE.

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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