

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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MRS. STEVENS' "JOHN OF BEDALE."

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "When you get back do comment on Mr. House's remarks on the Manx standard. . . . I think discussion might prevent such anomalies as an all-round judge giving a Ch. C. to a cat with a decided caudal bone, or a L.H. judge passing a Manx for its sleek coat!" Mr. House remarks "if a cat is not tailless it is not a Manx"—therefore why give points for taillessness? Well, we can see his point—but if a L.H. cat is not L.H.

it is not a L.H. cat, so why give points for coat properties? This sort of argument will make us fellow sufferers with Mr. House, whose brain whirls over our spotted cat description. It is idle to say a cat with a bit of tail is not a Manx—a Manx of bluest blood may have a bone, but a show specimen **should not**. On the other hand a tailless cat may be not at all a typical Manx. There is little doubt that the absolute taillessness has been evolved in course of time from stumpy, atrophied, or "withered" tails. If Siamese with little stumpy tails are much bred from, we may expect ere long to see Siamese as tailless as any Manx. Verb. sap.!

As regards the spotted cat's standard, we think Mr. House must have examined this when fatigued by a hard day's judging, or we cannot conceive why his brain should whirl, for we all know it is not his weak point by any means. If Mr. House will take a day off at the Natural History Museum, and study the different kinds of spots found in the wild felines, it will teach him more about this question than four pages of reading matter could do. He can then see a cat may be a beautifully spotted cat with lots of tiny spots; another a ditto with half the quantity of larger spots; a third with rosettes; a fourth with oblong spots, and so on. A round spot is by no means necessarily a rosette! But really we doubt if

it's worth while. Spotting can only be seen in perfection in S.H. cats. The S.H. Fancy seems moribund, so we shall probably never have the need to worry about these matters. But no one who has not some acquaintance with the wild cats can ever grasp the possibilities of the spotted felines—had one quarter the pains been taken in developing them which has been devoted to the L.H. varieties—and as regards the wild felines, we consider the knowledge of these possessed by cat judges is an absolutely negli-

ble quantity. The point of Mr. House's flea witticism we are, alas, too dense to grasp.

As regards spots: We think Mr. House would scarcely call a penny a rosette? There are two types of spotting—that in which the spots, prolonged and joined, would form stripes—that is, the spotting is but a **broken tabby marking**. And the real spotting, in which the spots are independent of each other as in a Dalmatian dog. Surely to grasp this need make no one's brain whirl?

We mentioned above that frequent use of stumpy-tailed Siamese for breeding is likely to result in the production of tailless Siamese. It is remarkable how easily some abnormalities are perpetuated—and how difficult they may be to get rid of when not desired. Years ago, by constantly breeding from a rat which had one eye atrophied, Sir Claud Alexander produced a number of rats with only one eye. At the present moment, by breeding from hairless mice which were blind from birth, we find we are obtaining mice in which the eye is atrophied. We were obliged so to breed because we had so few specimens. We now have a number, but expect we shall have our work cut out to get rid of the defective eye.

Miss Ruth Ackors, a young lady cat lover and Fancier across the water, writing to renew her sub., says she would like to correspond with some English cat lover. Her address is: Ellsworth, Kansas, U.S.A.

We draw the attention of our readers to the change of address of our Veterinary adviser, whose kennels and cattery are now at Finchley. In early days we were constantly being told "Why don't you have a veterinary advice column? It will be a fine thing for the paper," and so forth. We have obtained for you the services of an up-to-date specialist, author of a standard work, on remarkable terms, and wonder you do not have more recourse to him. Truly the British Cat Fancy is unfathomable and incomprehensible!

In reply to inquiries about the Lacteol tablets recommended by Mrs. Wade and Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, these are prepared by Dr. Boucard, of Paris, and can be obtained from Messrs. John Bell and Croyden, Analytical Dispensing Chemists, London, W.

Miss Benthall (Exeter) sailed last week for Perth, W. Australia, where she hopes to drive the G.F.S. caravan for nine months. She has let her house, furnished, meanwhile, and a friend at Worthing has taken charge of her Siamese Suki-Rana, who has four kittens. The kittens from this queen have for some time kept up a hospital bed in the Punjab.

"LES TABLETTES," the French cat paper, gives a pretty picture of the tame Margay exhibited at the late Paris Show, nestling in its mistress' arms. Such exhibits, which Continental shows usually try to secure, add so much to the general interest of a show.

"UNSERE KATZE" is also to hand from Berlin; the June number gives us 16 pages (and cover) of interesting matter, not only dry "Fancy" details,

but also delightful catty pictures, poems, and articles by celebrated writers, etc. Yet the German Cat Fancy is but a few years old. Both papers make a strong stand for humanity to ordinary cats, and especially against vivisection—a work left here entirely to "Cat Gossip"—other "Fancy" papers selfishly ignoring it. In this connection Mrs. Balingall writes us: "What a pity there is not a club for cat **lovers**, not merely fanciers, like the German one. Constantly things are being done for dogs in Parliament—nothing for cats." As we have before remarked, the attitude of the Cat Fancy as a whole towards the non-Fancy cat is a riddle to us—as to our Continental neighbours. It seems to us caused by the terrible commercial, semi-professional spirit abroad to-day in all Fancies; "Fancy" is rapidly becoming an unsuitable word; it's getting to grim business more and more.

JUDGING CATS AT VIENNA.

(Continued from page 339.)

Koenig ist der Katzenjammer
Sohn des Bacchus und der Nacht
Den in einer dunklen Kammer
Sie mit Schmerz zur Welt gebracht.

We were amused to see it stated in a contemporary that Frau Dr. Sartoris herself exhibited the records of the voice of Peter Alupka at Vienna Show; as a matter of fact, the doctor was not present. Incidentally, "Cat Gossip" was the first English paper to give, some months ago, particulars of this remarkable cat.

As regards the cats themselves at the Show, the quality as yet leaves much to be desired, and comprehension of the various breeds is still greatly wanting. The chief winners were Ras Tafari, a young smoke male sent over by Miss Langston a few days before, and a very typical though dark Siamese, a son of the cat sent out by Mrs. Basnett last year. Frau Wirth, owner of the smoke, who made the long journey from Berlin, also showed a blue Persian. The largest section was that of whites. Having been asked to judge "English fashion," we did so, with the result that blue eyes scored, the chief winner being a nice neuter in A1 trim (neuters here compete with the sexes), most of the whites being dirty and unkempt, from a slow point of view. We were here confirmed in our already formed opinion that the Americans are right, and we are wrong; we only recognise blue eyes, the Americans place golden-eyed whites on an equal footing. Had we known before judging what we did not learn until later, that in Germany the blue-eyed white is not esteemed, we should not have troubled about English fancies, but have awarded prizes to the beautiful golden-eyed whites present in numbers. These were a real revelation. Only a few of the non-blue-eyed whites showed the "greenery-gallery" eye usually found here. Cat after cat we saw, and, alas, passed, with gorgeous



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deep golden eyes, and beautiful they were, too. The Germans base their dislike of the blue eye on the undoubtedly correct pronouncement of the great Professor Schwangart, that the blue eye is a sign of decadence. The constant deafness manifested by blue-eyed cats is a proof of this. Of the lovely golden-eyed cats we saw not one was deaf. We bitterly regret our adhesion to English points in this respect, and we prophesy that ere long the English Fancy will regret it too. Did we mention that here the blues are called Persians, the others Angoras?—a foolish distinction. A class was provided for Zwerg-Angora—dwarf Angoras. If this class be retained care will have to be taken that it does not become the happy hunting-ground of "weeds." An exhibitor, who is doing good work in the production of amber-eyed whites, tells us he is producing a breed of dwarf cats, perfect and typical in every respect, but which he will not show until he has fixed a strain which, full grown, shall be but half the average size. Such a tiny cat would almost have the charm of perpetual kittenhood. There were a number of quite nice red tabbies, here called "yellow." The people here have not yet learnt what tabby cats are. It has hitherto been the lax custom to please the greatest number by giving several prizes of each rank per class; it costs nothing to do so, and pleases exhibitors, but it is not the way to improve cats and strengthen the Fancy. If people can so easily win prizes they will not go to trouble and expense to get good material. Our awards after English style badly disappointed

some, and the rather witty sentence, a play upon words, was bandied about, that we were not a judge, but an executioner—Kein Richter, sondern ein Scharfrichter! Well, well, they'll get over it, and if the severity spurs some on to make more efforts, good will have been done. It is all very well to try to please the greatest number, but if our friends want the Fancy there to really take a worthy place, they must look more to earnest and sensible awards, and less to playing to the gallery. The ridiculous custom of leaving the specials and "ehrenpreise" to be apportioned by two or three Committee members with a view to pleasing supporters must go. A couple of cats were shown as "Wild cat crosses." Cross enough one of them certainly was, and the way his owner handled him was certainly apt to make him wild! Now these cats have at each show been awarded prizes as half-bred wild cats, but they are two ordinary brown tabbies, showing not the slightest sign of any wild cat cross. As they were alone in the class we gave them another dose of prizes, though it was surely a weakness to do so. They could get in the money here in S.H. brown tabby classes—but as crosses! simply Tommy-rot! An interesting exhibit was a little rough-haired terrier of sorts, suckling a litter of kittens. We were informed by the V.S. that this bitch has only had one litter of pups in her life. Since then she comes in season, has a false conception, and secretes sufficient milk to rear a litter of kittens twice yearly.

(To be continued.)

CAT CALLS.

SIAMESE FEMALE KITTENS.

I am very pleased to read in "Cat Gossip" that Mrs. Wade is in favour of having most of the female Siamese kittens destroyed at birth. I have for some time advocated this, and have not only preached, but practised it. All last season I had most of my female kits drowned at birth, and am doing the same this season.

People say, "Oh! but you might drown a champion!" This is true, but I am convinced that if they are to be destroyed it must be at birth. For who could find it in her heart to drown a Siamese of, say, three months old, even if it were a female?

If one gets a collection of young female kits one is sometimes glad to let them go for a very low figure. But this is not the point. People often buy a female because it is cheap, and what often happens afterwards? As soon as the animal begins to bawl and be a nuisance they say: "Oh! we can't have this; our house is too small, and the neighbours will complain. We must get rid of her." I have been asked several times if I can find a home for a Siamese queen, and people are often only too glad to let them go for nothing to a good home. And so the poor things go on changing hands.

Of course, if one has a specially good litter, with, say, one female, then I would keep her, but when one has three females in a litter, my advice is to drown two of them at birth. My Buffy has a lovely litter of five kittens by Pedro of Petaling. The bucket was not needed, as to my delight they were all males! Unfortunately this seldom happens.

One must be fond of animals and be prepared to go to a good deal of trouble if one keeps a Siamese female cat. Personally, I think if only one cat is kept for a pet, a neuter is the only kind to keep.

M. HARVEY.

In the issue of "Cat Gossip" dated June 13th I was interested to read Mrs. Wade's article referring to female Siamese. I fully agree that unless the females are booked they should be put to sleep at birth, and if novices, particularly, would adopt this principle, the breed would benefit, and owners of female kits would be saved so much disappointment. For a very long time past I have put all unbooked females to sleep at birth, but in the event of a booking I rear all the females from that particular litter to provide a choice. Mrs. Wade mentions 30s. being asked for female kits. A lady visiting me early this year said she had got the offer of the pick of a litter of females at 4½ months for 10s., and when I asked the name of the breeder found she was an old Club member. With such evidence I think it is high time something was done to make the female valued as she certainly ought to be. Experience has shown me that good qualities are stamped more firmly in the progeny of a good queen mated to a stud inferior to herself than when the position is reversed. Therefore again the female should certainly be of more value than the male, in price and from a breeding point of view. By making the female more difficult to obtain people with a real interest will be the ones to purchase. As things are now only too often somebody is found with no interest whatsoever to take the unwanted female for next to nothing. It is never understood when the time comes round for it to want to have its own family. I have seen enough for me to say without hesitation, put the unwanted females to sleep at birth, especially the Siamese with their very sensitive dispositions, and need of understanding and interest which they demand with their almost human characteristics. I therefore urge novices particularly to help themselves, the breed, price, and last, but not least, the cat itself, by rearing only the booked females, except, of course, where, as sometimes happens, the family consists of one, and that a female, in which case their own good sense will tell them that the mother must be considered and the kit reared, otherwise there are possibilities of milk fever to be faced.

C. BASNETT.

THE SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

The General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, at 3 o'clock on June 21st. Mr. Lloyd Lewis in the chair. Present: Miss Dixon, Mrs. Allen Maturin, Major Woodiwiss, Sister Stockley, Mrs. Ryder, Mrs. Veley, Miss Wilson, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Mrs. Hindley, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Cates, Mrs. Wade. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Compton Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Basnett, Lady Holt, Miss H. Hill Shaw, Mr. Allanby, Mrs. Claude Reeve, Mr. H. C. Brooke, Mr. Percival, Mrs. Tomlinson, Miss Hobbs, Mrs. Yeates, Miss Bate-man, Miss Stella Crossland.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed. The new rules were read, and such alterations as the meeting wished were made.

Miss Fairbrother proposed that the funds do not justify the re-printing of the book of rules, and suggested that the additions and alterations be printed on slips, and inserted in the present book of rules. Seconded by Mrs. Maturin.

Major Woodiwiss moved that the new rules be passed as read, with the alterations and additions. Seconded by Mrs. Veley. Passed. He further proposed that the new rules be not printed until the present stock of old books is exhausted.

Miss Dixon proposed that the new rules be printed and circulated forthwith.

Mrs. Luncan Hindley proposed that if the book was going to be reprinted she could like some alterations in the standard of points for judging Siamese, and pointed out that while 20 points were given for body colour, nothing was given for type, which she considered far the most important. Seconded by Mrs. Wade. Carried unanimously.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the whole Book of the Siamese Cat Club would need revising before it could be reprinted, and the Committee were asked to do this before reprinting the new rules. Mrs. Duncan Hindley was asked to submit a new list for the value of points for judging to the Committee for their consideration, which she very kindly undertook to do.

The Chairman announced that the Siamese Cat Club Show will be held on September 26th, at the Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, S.W. Miss K. Wilson, Chalkpits, Springwell, Rickmansworth, had very kindly undertaken to act as Show Manager. The Show Committee will be Miss H. Hill Shaw, Miss Dixon, Mr. Basnett, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Wade, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Club to be ex-officio members.

Miss Wilson said she was a novice, but would do her very best, but that she could only make the Show a success if all members would help her and give her their loyal support. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Miss Wilson, and everybody present promised to help her as much as they possibly could.

It was agreed to ask Mrs. Marion Cran to judge the kitten classes, Mr. Percival to judge adults, and Miss H. Hill Shaw to act as referee judge.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Miss Dixon for her gift of the Champion Simple Challenge Cup, to take the place of the Chee Moo Cup, which was won outright last season.

The proceedings then terminated.

VISITS.

June 6th.—Mrs. Dodgshun's Nannie of Langton, to Mrs. Bergman's Mercury of Pensford.

June 20th.—Mrs. Dodgshun's Carina of Langton, to Mrs. Bergman's Simeon of Westfield.

DEATH.

June 21st.—Miss Buckley's Sheila of Stand.

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Alas for Molly's pride and happiness!

It was found that her eyes were not as they should be, and after several operations the poor little lady emerged from the ordeal so scarred as to be almost unrecognisable. The only place where she found comfort and rest was in some dark corner, and her mirror was forgotten.

Even then her brave little spirit did not desert her. In the night time, when all good little pussies should be asleep, Molly chose her hour of play, and a bowl of nuts close at hand proved a source of much joy. One by one with her dainty paws she rolled these on to the floor.

Molly, of course, followed the nuts, and with them she played for hours, skipping, sliding, pouncing, gliding with the greatest glee imaginable.

“Over happy to be proud,

Over wealthy in the treasure

Of her own exceeding pleasure,”

and forgetting in this new game the trouble of her eyes.

(To be continued.)

BIRTHS.

June 10th.—Miss E. M. Hill's Ch. Princess Salyana, 8 kittens (2 stillborn) by Owner's Galdorn.

April 7th.—Lavender Lady of Stand, 2 males, 1 female;

April 14th.—Miss King's Dolorosa, 3 females;

April 17th.—Miss Ingyon's Pixie, 4 kittens;

April 24th.—Mrs. Orange's April of Broughton, 2 males;

May 15th.—Betty of Stand, 2 males, 5 females;

May 25th.—Petronilla of Stand, 3 males, 1 female;

June 20th.—Sheila of Stand, 1 male, 1 female (both dead);

June 21st.—Bunty of Stand, 5 males, 1 female (prematurely); all by Miss Buckley's Lord Mac-Alpine of Stand.

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H. C. BROOKE,

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