

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 4

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 105

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TO OUR READERS.

We are coming up to town for several weeks in a week's time. We shall publish the address next week, and ask friends to help us by sending in their news, etc., as promptly as possible, to avoid delay.

With this number "Cat Gossip" commences a new volume and a new year of life. If it has done nothing else it has surely amply demonstrated the **value of competition**, and the evil of a monopoly. We ask our readers to compare the state of contemporary feline literature when we first started an earnest Cat Section in "Animals," with what it is now. We wonder, would the undoubted improvements have taken place but for the arrival of competition?

To our thinking, it is most necessary that a Fancy of the importance of the Cat Fancy should not be confined to one organ only. We regret having to reduce, now and then, the size of the paper, but if we do not get a fair share of the Fancy's advertisements we must do so, or lose heavily on its production, which we think no one can expect of us? As we've said before, if we do all the work we do not expect to pay for the privilege of doing so. So that's that!

LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

In reply to the question by one of our subscribers, re the mating of her brown L.H. tabby—either a black or a brown tabby would be suitable. A new brown tabby stud was brought out by Mr. Powell as his best cat at the Palace Show, belonging to Mrs. George Ripley, and there are a few others. I do not know whether Mrs. Kenaway has a son of Ch. Garb, Mascot, so long the only B.T. champion.

I cannot believe that Mrs. McWatt will ever bring herself to part with that delightful pet and good sire, Bubbles of Hanley, who won a championship at the S.C.C.C. Show, 1927. He must be a gentle fellow, for he goes on the lead as well as any dog, plays like a kitten, and allows children to pull him about to their hearts' content. Bubbles was bred by that fine breeder of creams, Mrs. Stevenson, from Pinkie of Hanley and Milord o' Mendip. Mrs. McWatt tells me that she is grieved to reduce her numbers, but can only accommodate two queens, both house pets—*one a cream, the other a blue cream*—for she is much away from home, and cannot give the attention necessary to a full cattery.

Owing to bad health, I am sorry to say that Mrs. Singleton has been obliged to withdraw her promise to judge at the coming S.C.C.C. Ch. Show, on January 24th, 1929. Mr. C. A. House has kindly come forward to fill the vacancy, and will judge Chin-chillas, Silver Tabbies, and Smokes.

My full list, to date, of paid-up members of the Southern Counties' Cat Club has now been sent in to Mrs. Sharman, our new Secretary and Show Manager. I must ask all members to send me in the annual subscription, 7s. 6d., as early as possible after January 1st, 1929, to enable them to enter as members and compete for Club trophies, specials, etc.

From Southsea Miss Nepean sends me some chatty news of her pretty blues: "My queen, Colneside Carla, otherwise known as Tarla Tiddlums, has great character. She was brought up in the country, being bred by Mrs. Bazeley. Eight months old she was when I bought her, and Carla was such a personality that Mrs. Bazeley parted from her most unwillingly. When I first brought the kitten to Southsea, she was for ever trying to escape and wander about, and was once out for a whole day and night. We feared she was lost, and were about to advertise when the girl who delivered our daily papers brought her back. Kitty was rather frightened after her adventure, and now we try not to let her out the front way, but she still escapes us occasionally by the back—gone in a flash, over the roofs of the cat-houses and runs. She always, however, returns when tired of her freedom, especially when she has kittens. Carla has a habit of chattering whenever picked up, and she is so lovable that though she had torn more curtains and broken more china than any puss we ever had, yet one has to forgive her. One of her quaint tricks is taking the lid off kettles with her paw—another squeezing herself into any drawer left unwittingly open, if only a few inches."

I hope Mrs. Jepson's hand is progressing; she suffered a badly bitten finger when stewarding at the recent Crystal Palace Show.

I have heard much appreciation of Mrs. T. H. Stevens' idea of an unregistered selling class for kittens at our big shows. If cat lovers would send their suggestions either to the Chairman of the Governing Council, or through their Club Delegate to the same body, the idea would be laid before the Council, and might be adopted, so don't be bashful.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE made a slight mistake last week—we have been asked to judge male and **kitten** Siamese at Paris, M. Steens taking the females. Also we expressed a doubt as to the usefulness of "many" side-classes, not "any," as printed.

THE Belgian Cat paper publishes a translation of an "Appeal issued by the Association of **German** Antivivisectionist Doctors to their confrères to abolish the greatest crime of civilisation of to-day." And here . . . ?? Again we repeat: The apathy of the British Cat Fancy at large towards the lot of the Common Cat surprises and puzzles foreign cat lovers: and though there are many A.V. medical men here they have not thus united in protest.

WE regret to say our representative lost her list of sales at the Palace last week.

CROYDON Items: Miss Cynthia Stockley, the celebrated novelist, and Mr. Peter Creswell, of the B.B.C., will steward for Mrs. Cran. Miss Stockley has never been to a cat show before, and may find food for further literary effort. Miss Langston is bringing a German lady fancier as her steward. Mr. H. C. Brooke offers spoons for best Self and best other than Self S.H. kittens.

Miss Hill-Shaw writes: "A cat belonging to a judge or judge's immediate relation will not be allowed to compete for best in show at the Croydon Cat Club's Show.

WHAT is a stud cat? We observe that one of the judges at the Palace writes in a contemporary of the system of judging studs there adopted—"That he does not know whose brain-wave it was that they should be judged by progeny." And how else, in Heaven's name? It is so done in dogs. Certainly it entails more work on the judge, but is that the chief consideration? We have always been against the ridiculous system of judging stud cat classes on face value. The only right system is to judge them by their progeny there present. Otherwise, there would be nothing whatever to prevent a good-looking cat which sired bad stock, or even a sterile cat, from winning in a stud cat class, which is obviously absurd. The same principle applies to brood queens; otherwise a cat which consistently destroys her young at birth might beat a mother of champions.

A remarkable cause of death in a cat has just been brought to our notice—she was choked by the eye of a cod.

"PETS" gives us the tip to draw the claws of "scratchy" cats down a piece of sand-paper stretched on a board before sending them to a Show.—Take it from us, the use of "Nostroline" is advisable for puss and her mistress, when travelling to and from shows, to ward off sniffing.—The tip recently given in a contemporary, to dab whiskey lightly with the hand over a cat's coat on its return from a show, was given some year or more, possibly

for the first time, in "Cat Gossip." Mr. Wooff, the Croydon V.S., strongly believes in the efficacy of this "wheeze" to avert chills and warm the stomach, as the cat is sure to lick it. Warm sweet tea and milk, which many cats love if accustomed to it, is also good for warding off stomachic chills. It is also good when (once in a lifetime) we get great summer heat which, especially if sudden, may upset the "inn'ards." Many years ago we used to find it beneficial in the case of our imported Esquimaux dogs, which, fresh from a Polar expedition, felt summer heat severely.

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

By MUANG T'HAI.

Mrs. Allen-Maturin writes: "I have been asked to say a few words on the blue-pointed Siamese. These are very rare, but I was fortunate enough to breed three lovely ones this summer. Two of them, a male and female, were sired by my stud, Southampton Darboy, and they took, respectively, 1st and 2nd prizes in the Siamese Club Show, and some kind friend said they were the best specimens ever benched. Most people regard them as freaks, and this knotty point has not yet been solved. But freaks or not, they are very lovely animals, with the palest of cream coats and lavender blue points, viz., mask, paws, and tail, and the eye is usually a very bright blue. I use the word 'lavender,' as I think that is the best description of the colour that the points should be. Sometimes the points are of a stone grey colour, which detracts from their beauty. They always remind me of a bit of delicate china. Blue Siamese can be bred to colour if an unrelated male and female are mated, the litter should prove to be all pale blue Siamese; if a blue male is mated to an ordinary seal-pointed queen the offspring will probably all be seal pointed. It has been suggested that the blues are a throw-back to the Korat Cat, which is found in the hill districts of Siam. The latter are a small animal with a pale blue short-haired coat (the colour of a pale blue Persian); they have no decided points, and I am not sure as to the colour of their eyes; they are extremely delicate, and so far none have been imported into England. I have been trying to get a pair for a long time, but so far have not succeeded. I have seen photos of them which belonged to a gentleman who had just returned from Bangkok. He had a couple as pets, and said they were most engaging and entertaining, and used to walk about on their hind legs! He gave me a description of their colouring, etc. I still hope that some day I may be the proud possessor of one. I was so pleased and surprised to see the picture of my winning blue male, Southampton Silver Sheen, in the 'Radio Times'; so his fame has gone forth to the world, but, alas, I am greatly grieved to say that he has 'passed over,' having succumbed to a heart attack. Darboy also sired two other blue Siamese in a litter bred by the Countess of Essex, so I hope



next season that I may be fortunate enough, to have some more. I see in a letter from America that a lady out there owns a beautiful blue Siamese, to which she is devoted, and thinks that it is the only one of that kind in America."

From Highcliffe, Shelford Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Mrs. Stokes writes anent some blue "Siamese" she owns: "I think I told you that they are a pretty French bluey grey, shot in gradation from light to dark—like shot plush—and, when the light is on them, show a distinct dark tiger marking, quite regular, right to the rings down to the tip of the tail. They certainly have orange eyes, although at certain times and in varying lights they show a tendency to green. Their heads are wedge-shaped really, with a squarish nose, especially the females, and the males are inclined to fill a little, both in the jowls and in the flanks. The limbs of the female especially are dainty and delicate, being small in the bone, and they are all exceptionally affectionate, being most sensitive to either reprimand or affection. Their parents (of pair that I have) belonged to a Mrs. Campbell, of Nottingham, who owned both the sire, Ray, and the dam, Trixy, and she always insisted that they were a very rare blue variety of Siamese. She has now left the town, but if I can get in touch with her any time I will go into the matter further with her."

Dr. Aylen writes anent the Palace judges' report: "My kitten, Halesworth Charbo, won 3rd in Class 107, and it is very vexing to read the charming remarks made about the third prize winner in this class (male kits, 3—9 months) when the owner is given as someone else."

Our American contemporary, "Pets," is strong on Siamese. The current number has articles by Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Wade, Mrs. O'Brien; also it publishes Mrs. Allen-Maturin's recent Siamese article from "Cat Gossip."

Miss Hobbs is very sad at having lost a whole litter of promising kits from distemper. All her cats were ill, Daffodil especially suffering severely: she is now again well, but we fear her days will not be long in the land if she does not alter her ways. She has nearly killed the next-door cat, and has now the pleasing habit of "walking into people's houses, petrifying the occupiers with a cold look from her blue eyes, snarling all the time, and seizing their cats!" Miss Hobbs adds that all her neighbours are agreed that Daffodil's true home is a **warm climate!**

We draw attention to Mrs. Allen-Maturin's stud advertisement.

We beg Siamese lovers to bear in mind that "Cat Gossip" was the **first paper to provide a regular Siamese column**, which it had done for a long time before its example was **copied in a quarter which had for years consistently neglected Siamese**. We think we are fully entitled to ask you to send us all your news items?

CAT CALLS.

(Publication of letters does not necessarily indicate that they represent our views.)

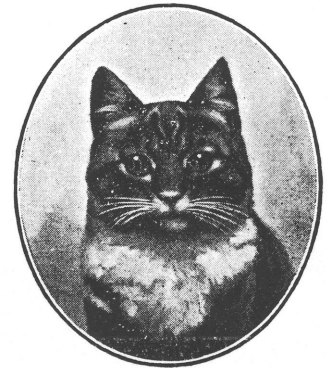
N.C.C. SHOW.

I am at a loss to understand why the N.C.C. Committee publish Show Rules in their Schedule and then absolutely ignore them. Rule 10 reads as follows: "Entries will not be accepted from judges or the wives of judges who are officiating at the show." An excellent and much-needed Rule, and one that should meet with general approval. On page 5 of the said Schedule a list of the judges was printed. Imagine my surprise on going to the Show to find no less than twelve entries from the wife of one of the judges on the list; for surely no one will plead that a referee judge is not a judge. Even supposing the referee's opinion was never asked for, it does not alter the fact that he was present with the other judges during the judging for Best in Show and the other important open specials, and I understand that the lady in question was awarded the special prize for the best cat in a certain section in the Show. I am afraid it is incidents such as these that do harm to the Cat Fancy, for although those of us who have been in it for some years would be the last to suggest or think there is anything wrong, it must be open to much comment from novices and the general public, and it is a great pity that the premier Cat Club sets such an example, and allows such things to happen.

PRINCIPIA NON HOMINES.

[Note by Editor: The above is from an old and well-known fancier who has held many high offices in Cat-dom, and who writes: "Should an interesting controversy arise I should be quite willing to stand by my guns over my own name!"]

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ADVERTISEMENTS. Displayed Advertisements, Stud or others. 3/6 per inch, cash, up to 4 insertions; 4 to 13 insertions, 3/4 inch: 13 and upwards, 2/9 inch. Standing Advertisements of Cat Clubs. 35 words, 2/6. Sales, Wants, &c., 1d. per word.

PORTRAITS. Cats standing at stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and post age, i.e., from 15 6, according to size, or two done together £1 2s. 6d. the two. We challenge competition in this offer. For Cats not advertised at stud the portrait fee is £1 1s. 0d. [N.B.—The Blocks become the property of owner of cat, and may be used for printing stud cards, advertisements in Schedule, &c.]

All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE,

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

"CAT GOSSIP" VETERINARY SERVICE.

OUR Veterinary Adviser will reply FREE, through the columns of "Cat Gossip," to our SUBSCRIBERS' queries about their cats; all such FREE queries to be sent as early as possible to "Cat Gossip." URGENT ADVICE will be sent by post for the fee of 2 6. This nominal fee will also be charged for Post-mortems. In these cases, the query, or the body, with the fee, must be sent direct to

"Cat Gossip" Adviser, "Croyland," Finchley Rd., London, N.W.

NOTE.—Any bodies sent to "The Editor" will be at once destroyed!

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