

WISHING ALL OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CAT · GOSSIP

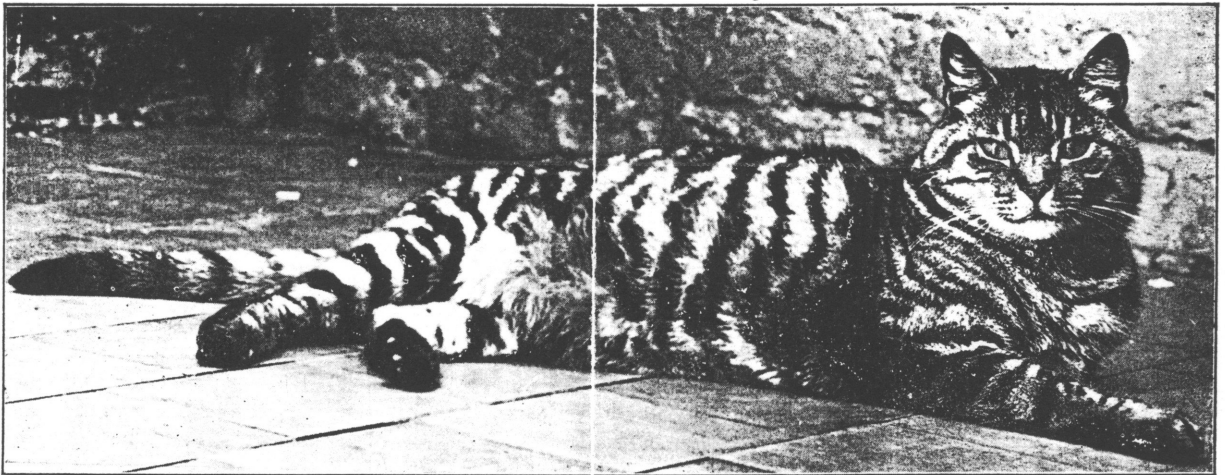
VOL. 4

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 106

DECEMBER 19th, 1928

Price 3s. 6d. quarterly, post free



A VERY BEAUTIFUL S.H. CAT. FIRST PRIZE GHENT SHOW.

[Block by courtesy of the *Revue Féline Belge*.]

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We beg our readers to take notice that on Friday we are coming to Town for several weeks, and all letters, etc., must be addressed to us at Cleve Hall, Champion Hill, London, S.E. 5 (No postcards, please.) Nothing should be posted to Bishop's Hull from the time this notice appears. As we shall have to send all matter to Taunton to be printed, and "Cat Gossip" is set up in type on Saturdays, we must beg you to post as **early** as possible, or it may be too late for inclusion in the next number. Make all P.O.'s payable at Balham, and cross them and cheques Westminster Bank, Balham.

Further, we have to inform you that owing to the difficulty of getting out the paper next week we shall not publish, and No. 107 will appear on January 2nd.

We also regret to have to state that in future we cannot send out "Cat Gossip" after subscriptions have expired and notices of their falling due have been posted. We have incurred losses totalling up to pounds through some people acting in such an unfancierlike way as to let us send them the paper for weeks, they having no intention of paying for it, and it is time to cry halt! We cannot differentiate, but must treat all subscribers alike, and cease sending as subscriptions expire. We sincerely hope our

readers will enable us to keep the paper at six pages, as has been customary; it is not our wish only to put out a four-page "Cat Gossip"; we would rather make it eight pages if we could.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

I am very glad to hear that that sporting exhibitor, Mrs. Le Sueur, is anxious to become a member of the Southern Counties' Cat Club; in the near future she hopes to place on the show bench kittens bred from Jasper of Hadley. Mrs. Le Sueur's love for the little "fourfoot" extends to her kennel of Sealys, which have long been a feature at Highcliffe.

Mrs. Estelle Oglethorpe has now parted with the entire litter of five Blue L.H. which she showed at the recent Crystal Palace Show. She herself is contemplating spending Christmas in Bournemouth, and is, therefore, specially glad to think that the blue babes have all found happy homes.

From Cardonald, South Croydon, comes news from a new exhibitor, which is always particularly welcome. This time it is from the pen of Miss Darling-ton Manley, and she writes as follow: "Mrs. Mac-Allan is joint owner with myself of our cats, and the

first time we really lost our hearts to a cat was many years ago, when a little black half-Persian kitten, with torn and bleeding paws, came rubbing up against us one bitterly cold winter night. So we took her in and nursed her, and that started our cat family, for we eventually had many little 'Kimbos,' as we named the kit, and not many people would take the lady kittens, so we kept them ourselves. In spite of their lovable little personalities, they were only ordinary cats, and we did not think of entering the Cat Fancy until two years ago, when staying with a friend in Leicestershire, we became the proud owners of a beautiful little Persian kitten, again of no known class. He was born in the woods, and was practically wild, although he came near the house for food. It took exactly a week, of many patient hours of stalking, before we finally captured him. He became the most friendly little chap, and we took him to Miss Hill-Shaw, who advised us to enter him in the Croydon Show. There, to our joy, we got a third prize, so we boldly showed him at the Palace, where he was highly commended. He was too light for a red, and too dark for a cream, so we decided we would keep good cats, and started by buying Mrs. Stevenson's Pam of Hanley. Then our little wild cat died very terribly of meningitis, and that seemed to start our ill-luck. We mated Pam to Miss Langhorne's Ch. Shere Khan o' the Combe, and, unfortunately, just before her litter was due she rushed up a plum tree, slipped on a top branch, and, though she managed to hold on in her precarious position till I fetched a ladder to rescue her, all her kittens were born open-eyed. Mrs. MacAllan and I sat up with them for two days and a night, but could not save one. To compensate for our setback, we determined to buy another queen at the Croydon Show. As there were no creams there we purchased Mrs. Yeend's beautiful blue litter, by Flick-a-Maroo. Blue Haze of Cardonald we call her, and this year, at her first show (C.P.), she took three thirds and a fourth, which was much more than we expected. We mated Pam again to Flick-a-Maroo, but, alas, all the litter died, except Judy, our blue cream. From now on we hope to have a little better luck; Pam's paw is promised again in matrimony to Ch. Shere Khan, and Blue Haze, for her first mating, is going to Miss Evelyn Langston's Ch. Dion of Allington."

With the Glasgow post mark a cheery letter arrived from Mrs. Gentle this morning. She tells me she has been away from home much during the past year, and consequently her correspondence is much in arrears. Mollie, her black queen, after bringing up her three black kittens by Hendon East-bury Bogle, has crossed the "herring pond," and is now rejoicing in her life on a Canadian farm, where, Mrs. Gentle says, she reigns supreme over everything and everyone! Her sweet nature commanding universal love. Lucky little black cat!

A charming pale blue daughter of Mrs. Knapp's

handsome queen, Maroo, sired by Ch. Gentleman of Henley, has joined the Hendon Cattery.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Quotations from Miss Frances Simpson's "Cats, and all about them": "If you make up your mind to enter your puss and kits in a litter class send the whole family, as in judging a litter class quantity, with due regard to quality, has to be considered. Thus, a litter of five very fairly good and level kittens ought to score over a family of three, though these may be possessed of better points. It is, therefore, advisable to always send the whole litter—not to pick and choose."

On my own, I must add an outrider to the above. If, as it sometimes happens in a large litter, that there is a very tiny weakly kit, my advice is **keep it at home**. The day's outing will do it no good, and its poor appearance will spoil the tout ensemble.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE question raised by Mrs. Stevens as to providing a class for selling kittens only has created a lot of interest; some are in favour and some are not. Mr. Yeates points out that as the G.C. Rules stands such a class would hardly be practicable. All the same, as far as we can see, if any Show wanted to give such a class they could not be prevented. If we have a cat we want to sell we can show it, unregistered; if it wins we lose the prize, that's all? Any half-dozen people could do the same. Neuters, "locals," and litters need not be registered, and if there existed a general wish for "Selling Kitten Classes," we do not see why the G.C. should make any opposition, it being clearly understood that the kittens be shown purely for sale, and that no prizes be given, or at any rate recognised. A price limit may be fixed. On the other hand, is it advisable to increase the already existing congestion at our principal Shows? There are two sides to the question.

COLOGNE Show, where Miss Langston judged, had a total of 170. The classification is remarkable to our views. There were 14 classes: but each class is divided into: a Deckkater (stud cats), b Jungkater (young males), c Zuchkatzen (brood queens), d junkkatzen (young females). The classes were: 1 whites, 2 blacks, 3 blues, 4 (?), 4a tortoiseshell, 5 self orange (were they really, we wonder), 6 silver-moor (what are they?), 7 gestromt (tabby?), 9 luck cats (tricolor), 10 "many coloured." Blues were not in any majority, whites (thanks doubtless to the golden-eyed) being equally popular. A correspondent writes that Miss Langston's judging gave satisfaction on the whole, and that she judged very strictly. We do not know whether she was styled an "executioner," as we were in Vienna! We are sure our Teutonic friends will admit we are always most willing to give them every credit, but really

their classifications are "einfach laecherlich." In the first place, neither in Germany or Austria do they seem to have grasped the fact that tabby is a form of marking which should be specially bred for and judged; then they need to get rid, from an exhibition point of view, of all the mixed up colours they have, tabby and white, wild cat coloured, tabby and tortoiseshell, et hoc genus omne! And the good old S.H. cat is absolutely left out (eine Schande das!). What a shame! Fancy catering for all kinds of stripy and blotchy L.H., with or without white marks, and not a single class for S.H. Cats; that is not the way to build up a Fancy! As regards the cats, the "self orange," Binkie of Bredon, alone in class, got the "Sieger" title. Rosebud of B, and her one class fellow both got first. In some classes we observe several firsts, several seconds, and so on. In this way a judge can please a devil of a lot of people! When we judged at Vienna we only gave 1, 2, 3, and so on, hence the Scharfrichter (Executioner) title we earned! In white adult males, for instance, 11 cats, we see Miss Langston gave 4 firsts, 2 seconds, 3 thirds, besides the "Sieger," which is in the nature of our Challenge Certificate. So it will be seen the manner of judging is different from ours. Percival of Allington was alone in his glory. The only "Portoiseshell" (sic) entered was Cinderella of The Balcony, either absent or no award. The recent English importations were conspicuous by their absence, Fraulein Honnerbach's entries not being present.

WE are glad to see that, after we started the ball rolling in "Cat Gossip," one by one admirers of Copper or Golden-Eyed Whites are timidly coming forward and admitting their heretical partiality. At our instigation, Croydon is providing a class for them, L.H. or S.H. Now any and every-one possessing such a cat, do please show at Croydon, and make propaganda, but please, please do **not** show washy-yellow-eyed ones, which we don't want, and would but injure the cause.

MANX were a failure at the Palace, last year we had a very good entry to judge there. Manx owners, and rightly too, seem to fight shy of all-round judges.

WE forgot to mention that our Self-Red, referred to last week, is a S.H. Mahogany red all through, not the **vestige** of shading or striping, not a white hair; but oh! what a heart-breaking cat; will anything on this earth ever get him into condition?

WE believe Miss Lowndes will show her Malay Cat at Croydon. It is a very very long time since one has been seen in England, and we suppose no more ever will be seen, thanks to Granny Government, to whose score we fear much slaughter of ship's cats will soon be attributable.

TAILLESSNESS OCCURS sometimes in L.H. About thirty years ago there was trouble because someone owned such a cat, and offered it as a "L.H. Manx," having the effrontery to tell a would-be buyer that "the

well-known Manx breeder and judge, H. C. B., admired it very much!"

Mrs. Cattermole's remarks in a contemporary, as to how she "put her foot in it" by trying to obtain support for Golden-Eyed Whites, bear out what we have said, that in certain circles in Cat-dom there is a crying need for the introduction of more up-to-dateness, more breadth of vision, more willingness to step out of the old groove. Why, we ask, should anyone want to throw cold water on the effort to produce something new? Those who prefer the blue-eye can stick to it, no one wants to oust them, but why try to crab the golden? "Stands England where she did?" Yes, in Cat-dom too much so in some ways, for she stands still in the rut, and won't get out. In England alone is the Gold-Eyed White Cat taboo. But considering that for weeks "Cat Gossip" (alone) has been announcing that a class for them will be given at Croydon, Mrs. Cattermole's well meant prayers for such a class somewhat lose their *raison d'être*! All the same, we welcome her belated support of the cause.

VARIETIES well worth fostering (and which can be produced) if only more catters would come out of the rut: Self-red S.H.; Spotted S.H.; Mackerel S.H. (both very beautiful if well marked); Dutch-marked and Broken-marked, L. or S.H.

WE have pleasure in publishing Mr. Yeates' reply to our correspondent, "Non Homines," and are fully in accord with every word of it. We are very sorry to hear of the reports Mr. Yeates referred to as having been assiduously spread, and assure him that we had not heard them, nor should we for one second have given them credit had we done so. But we must admit that the deplorable fact, discreditable to those concerned, that such rumours **were** spread, shows how necessary it is to avoid giving even the slightest chance of mischief-making—which is, we take it, just what "Non Homines" was aiming at? We are very very sorry that the feelings of Sir Claud and Mr. Yeates should have been hurt, yet in the face of the rumours referred to (Rumour is a lying jade) it is, perhaps, well for a clear pronouncement to be made on the subject, as Mr. Yeates has done.

CROYDON Items: Class 74, Golden-Eyed White Cat or Kitten, L. or S.H., will be judged by Mr. H. C. Brooke; Classes 150 and 151, by Miss Langston. The Siamese Cat Club offers, in addition to its specials mentioned in the Schedule: The Club's Silver Spoon, for Best Siamese Kitten; the Club's Silver Spoon, for Best Male Adult Siamese shown by a novice exhibitor; the Club's Silver Spoon, for Best Female Adult shown by a novice exhibitor. Mr. Lloyd Lewis offers one year's subscription (including entrance fee) to the Siamese Cat Club for a novice exhibitor who is not a member of any other short-haired club, for Best Male Siamese Kitten. Miss F. A. Dixon offers 10s. 6d. for Best Siamese Kitten shown by

novice exhibitor. The labels and tallies for the exhibitors at Croydon Cat Club Show will be sent by post on December 27th to avoid the risk of Christmas rush.

THE attention of Siamese friends is drawn to Mrs. Cates' notice of change of address.

Too late for last week we received a letter from Mrs. Wade acknowledging the mistake in her report, of which Dr. Aylen complained, and stating that Charbo was third, Mrs. Furniss' Keesar extra third, there being hardly a pin to choose between them.

MR. YEATES, in a very charming letter to us, remarks: "I was glad to read your notes on the judging for Best in Show. (See "Cat Gossip" No. 103.) I have fought against the present system until I am tired. Nothing will be done unless fanciers agitate." Well, if Mr. Yeates himself has not been able to effect a much-needed reform, this fact seems to bear out a previously expressed opinion that the Cat Fancy badly wants a leaven of more up-to-date blood in its "hupper suckles"! But any steps in this line can only be taken by the Fancy itself.

M. STEENS, referring to the quarantine, observes that there seems to be international imbeciles in all Governments. This restriction, following on the thousand piffing regulations by which life in this country is made one continual source of irritation, is in the nature of the last straw to us. To impose it on wild felines, thus hindering science, is more than childish. As M. Steens observes, better impose a quarantine on the Bolsheviki and other vermin made welcome here!

ANTWERP Show last week, M. Steens tells us, brought together about 300 cats. Cyrus and Tamar of Downside, and Day Dream of Henley, all took firsts in their sections. Colneside Hanoum, a Billy Bumpet daughter, also took the Cup for Blue Persians. All these belong to M. Steens. Mrs. Nathan's Chinchillas, Parkside Phyllis and Parkside Phillip, also won in their section, Mr. Nathan being in charge. There was a fine show of Golden-Eyed Whites, that lovely variety neglected only in England. In Siamese, Prestwick Periwinkle won first in females. About 60 Siamese were present. A good collection of 30 Blue Americans (S.H. Blues). Seven challenge cups and about 150 specials were on offer, and about 3,000 visited the Show.

THE French Fancy is getting in rather an involved state. The Cat Club de Paris has separated from the Société Centrale Féline, which recognises the championships, etc., of the Belgian Federation (and vice versa), which latter does not recognise the Cat Club de Paris. Much of this pother appears to be due to personal hostility between the leaders of the two groups. The Société Centrale group appears to us to be largely run by veterinary surgeons (a V.S. is not necessarily an authority on cats!), and the

C.C. de Paris group to be more under amateur or "Fancier" guidance. Time will show which group will prevail, as a quarter-of-a-century ago in the devastating quarrel between the Cat Club and the N.C.C. in this country.

Now that a so-called Conservative Government is ruining the country with Socialistic legislation and doing its best to drive out or drag down all the best elements of the population, so many are compelled to live in flats who formerly occupied house and garden, that we wonder no British firm has made and placed on the market sanitary pans or "cat-closets," such as are made and sold in large numbers in Germany and advertised in the German animal papers; we think they would be a boon to many. By the way, a writer in an American paper recommends the use of paper, instead of other materials, in cat pans or boxes—a nasty affair we should think! Peat is undoubtedly the best, but comes expensive. Incidentally, it is well to inquire to what a new cat has been accustomed, as some cats are very particular, and if used, for instance, to earth, may not like to use ashes or sawdust, and either go in some corner, or injure themselves by retention.

We draw attention to Miss Hill's studs, which join our ranks to-day. Both are proved winning sires, Chintz, the recent Palace sensation, being one of Galdorn's get.



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THOUGHTS ON S.H. BLUES.

The fascination of the blue Russians! I wonder did anyone fall under the spell of the blue Russians as strangely as I did? I did not know of such a breed, and, like most people, loved the blue Persians, and envied a blue Persian kitten, a son of Barry Blue John, my mother had, but it was sold, when in our local paper there appeared an advert. about a blue cat (L.H.). My husband set off at once for it, one wet, dark, Friday night, to a small holding out in the wilds, called Hungry-Bottom, arriving back about three hours later, he brought home a wild-looking, badly frightened lady cat, shorthair blue. I could have cried with sad disappointment, but that good friend of all shorthair cats, Miss H. Hill-Shaw, came to see her, and told me instead of a cat of no account I had a lovely shorthair Russian blue with beautiful green eyes, and advised me to send her to Miss Read's Ivan. I did, result three lovely males, one female. Of course, the next step was exhibiting, and at Croydon I entered two males (kittens). Result, 1st and 2nd prizes, and 2nd in pairs. Oh! the delight of my success. But, alas, I had a lot to learn, for I let the kittens get cold; three males died, leaving me with the female and old mother, Molly. The following season I tried again. Only two female kittens was the result, and one of them died. By that time I had learnt a lot about the Russian blues. Also the Public Library here had a really good book, Miss Simpson's "Book of the Cat," which I am afraid I monopolised for some considerable time, until I think I know it by heart. Thanks to that, and especially the Misses Hill-Shaw, I began to get better success, and to-day I am the proud owner of two fine young Russian champions—male and female—and other winning queens of this beautiful breed, and kittens sell fast, especially in the North of England and busy towns, where quite a lot of new fanciers are taking to this beautiful breed, thanks to Mr. C. Yeates and others, who made appeals to people to take up shorthairs. I think the blue shorthairs, both British and Russian, are the finest breed for town-dwellers, as: Blue, the colour, attracts, and is uncommon; shorthair, keeps spick and span in all weathers and neighbourhoods. The Russians are, at any rate, more like our faithful old friend the dog, being chums more than pets, and refusing outside friendship, and most faithful to the owner, and being so quiet (even calling queens), and very clean in their habits, and I can honestly advise anyone who lives in towns and thinking of taking up S.H. to take the S.H. Blues, as they are easy to keep in A1 condition. I was very pleased to see another novice take the premier honour at the C.P. Show in Russian Class, as it shows what a novice can do when they are stimulated by the fascination of the Russians. I was also pleased to see such a large class, as it shows that they are on the increase, and we may expect larger classes and keener competition in the near future.

A LOVER OF THE RUSSIANS, LEILA BATT.

TRUE STORIES OF CATS.

(Continued.)

BY MISS EDITH NEWTON.

There is a black neuter cat, named Ranjitsinghi, who lives at Anerley, and his mistress claims for him that he has a sense of humour. In the hall of the house where he lives there stands a grandfather's clock, and one day, when his mistress was winding it up she stopped the pendulum. Puss was sitting by, and must have taken it all in, for next day he opened the clock door, which was not fastened, and deliberately stopped the pendulum with his paw. He was reprovved for this, but ever since then if he is scolded for anything he runs into the hall, opens the clock door and stops the pendulum, returning to his mistress with a mischievous look on his face, as much as to say, "I have been even with you." The door of the clock is left unfastened, as it is so amusing to see the cat stop the pendulum. He sleeps in the maid's room at the foot of her bed, and every morning as soon as it gets light he jumps down and rattles the handles of a chest of drawers, looking back at the bed to see if she is going to get up!

CAT CALLS.

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

In reply to the letter which appeared in "Cat Gossip" this week criticising the appointment of Sir Claud Alexander as referee at the recent Crystal Palace Show on the ground that Lady Alexander was exhibiting. I should like to make the following statements. When the rule barring judges or their wives from showing was passed, the Committee never intended it to apply to the referee. It is difficult enough to find judges who are unselfish enough to forego showing and judge, but it is still more difficult to find anyone who will forego showing on the off chance that they may be required to give a decision as referee. The Committee of the N.C.C. had the greatest difficulty in persuading Sir Claud to officiate, but, having persuaded him, flattered themselves that they had secured someone who would satisfy everyone. Apparently they were wrong. I should like also to point out that the report, which has been assiduously spread by certain people, that Sir Claud acted as referee when the decision lay between Miss Langston's Mab of Allington and Lady Alexander's Rufus Superbus, is absolutely untrue. I was in charge of the Best in Show judging, and, when the judges could not agree between the two cats mentioned above, I said that Sir Claud could not referee in this instance. The judges suggested that my wife should be asked to act in his place, which she did, and awarded the special to Miss Langston's Chinchilla.

CYRIL YEATES, Hon. Sec. N.C.C.

"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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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 21 2s. 6d. the two. We challenge competition in this offer. For Cats not advertised at stud the portrait fee is 21 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.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Please Note that MRS. R. CATES has Changed her Address, from 16, Adelaide Road, Surbiton, to NORTHWOODS, WINTERBOURNE, near BRISTOL. Tel. and Phone: Winterbourne 18.

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