

CAT · GOSSIP

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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MR. H. C. BROOKE,
Short-Hair Judge and Editor "Cat Gossip," with
Ras Tafari, the Abyssinian of European fame,
now owned by Herr Joe Lesti, Vienna.

CROYDON SHOW,

JANUARY 2nd, 1929.

Once again one of the very pleasantest fixtures of the year has come and gone, pervaded, as usual, with the kindly "Hill-Shaw atmosphere," and never do we remember Croydon Show being smiled upon by the weather as was this one. To us, personally, the Show afforded the liveliest satisfaction, on account of the excellent S.H. entry, which we cannot but regard as a very great compliment, and also because of the undoubted progress being made by S.H., and because of the fact that our nomination for best S.H., the PHENOMENAL Brown Tabby, Mrs. Burl's Galantuomo, not only won that proud honour, but was also voted BEST CAT OF ANY KIND in the Show—a well-deserved verdict, and one complimentary to our judging. This wonderful cat is a most perfect Brown Tabby, which everyone took to be a neuter, but no, he is a proved sire; his symmetry is wonderful, his massive masculine head and jaw reminded one of those of a heavy old panther male. His weight is 24lbs., girth 26ins., total length one yard, across head 7ins.! Here let us say his owner has faithfully promised to let us have this cat if she ever does part with him—"nuff sed!

We deeply regretted to learn that Mrs. French's "Cigar-coloured" Siamese kits are dead: Mrs. Sherman's sensational tortoise-and-white S.H. kitten is no more; and Mrs. Cattermole has recently lost her black kitten, Lotus Othello, winner at C.P. and Worcester, at the age of eight months, from laryngitis, also her lovely copper-eyed white, from heart failure. We were pleased to welcome Fraulein Honnerbach, of Cologne. General regret was felt at the news that Mr. Beckett, husband of the owner of Joe Beckett, dropped dead in the street the day before the Show: hence the redoubtable neuter's pen was empty. Miss Langston was elated to learn her Mab had won the Thirty Guinea Cup at C.P. The record of Peter Alupka, the German Speaking Cat, lent by "Cat Gossip," was a great attraction, and quite a number of people paid to hear it, the manner in which he kept time and tune when his mistress sang a verse of a song being much admired. Mrs. McLaren Morrison bought a couple of kittens, one being a pretty T. and W.; and Mrs. Klinge bought one of Mrs. Barratt's blue L.H. kits.

The Golden-eyed White Class drew the satisfactory entry, for a start, of 7. Miss L'Estrange Walsh's really lovely L.H. winning. Mr. F. Coppald's S.H. Silver Tabby, Silver Gem, escaped during the night, but was recaptured early in the afternoon. His owner, when it was suggested he should try to coax the cat from under the pile of chairs in the basement, said that would be useless, as the cat had never been out of his Spratt's kennel except to be brushed. We should be sorry to keep cats like that!

Principal awards:—Best L.H., Lady Eardley Wilmot's Gentleman of Henley. Best S.H. and Best in Show, Mrs. Burl's Galantuomo. Best L.H. kitten, Mrs. Norton's cream, Verotto Petit Beurre. Best S.H. kitten, Mrs. Ward's Siamese, Annette, also best kit, L.H. or S.H.

MR. BROOKE'S CLASSES.

GOLDEN-EYED WHITE (7)—1, L'Estrange Walsh, Primrose Queen; 2, 1922, nice eyes; 3, Fairbrother and Wilson, S.H.L. Starlight Greatheart; r. Penn, Ninnles. BLACK, M. or F. (4)—1 and ch., Cochrane, well-known Ch. Orange Pip; 2, Ch. Chloe; 3, Arletti, Asa-Loki. WHITE, M. or F. (4)—1 and ch., Ch. White Ensign, easy win; 2, McLaren Morrison, Egerton Bianca; 3, McCowatt, Blythwood Douglas, coat yellow, very cross. MANX, M. (6)—1 and ch., Morrison, Egerton House Douglas, nice tabby; 2, Kent, Eubonius; 3, Fairbrother and Wilson, good cat, finest possible crook; r. Jetsam, black, lanky, long hind-legs. MANX, F. (8), much better quality here—1 and ch., Cochrane, the perennial odd-eyed white; equal 2, Richardson, Flurry Flop, and Cochrane. Eilan Vannin, two half-sisters by the late Katzemjammer's Ghost; 3, Hill-Shaw, Blackberry, very poor condition, a pity, grand type, orange-round rump.

MANX. Novice (10)—Repeats; 1, Flurry Flop, Ellan Vannin; 3, Blackberry; Hopper's Tom Boy, long, hind-legged tiger-striped, would have done better if entered in male class. ABYSSINIANS (7)—1 and ch., Woodiwiss, Woodroffe Rastus, a really fine cat, but where is the ruddy colour of days gone by?; 2, 3, r, Carew-Cox, Ras Isis and Empress Zanditu, well known; r, that wonderful old stud, sire of so many winners, Ras Djibuti, nearly thirteen and looking in A1 trim! BLUE, M., British (2)—1, McLaren Morrison, Egerton Scaramouch, better eye and colour than 2, St. Barbe, Toni of Culloden. BLUE, F. (5)—1 and ch., Fairbrother and Wilson, Ch. Rosemary of A.; 2, Cochrane, Ch. C. Thistle-down, not so good colour; 3, Croucher, Birn; r, Chelsea Speedwell; several of this class were pale eyed. BLUE, Foreign, M. (5)—In foreigners I tried to pick those most divergent from British type—1 and ch., Wakeford, Prince Igor, long, slender, green-eyed, wedge-headed, long-legged, rat-tailed; 2, Batt, Imperial Blue Prince, green eye, long ear, good type, tail dark, body colour good; 3, Egerton Free, Kakushin, eye colour not so good; r, Ivanski, more Britsh in build. BLUE, F. (12)—1 and ch., Hill-Shaw, Ch. Stephanie, true type; 2, Wakeford, Sandra, typical, nice eye; 3, Batt, Ch. Danusia, excellent type, brown tinged to-day; r, Wakeford, Thetis, nice type; v h c, Hill-Shaw, Andromeda, nice type, tail defective; Barker, Teaser of A., lovely colour, marred by scarred face; Stevens, Boo of Mendip, nice all round; Blake, Perly, a pretty little demon! This was a hot class, several approached British type too closely. TORTOISESHELL (2)—1 and ch., Richardson, Deare Jane; 2, Charlton, Mrs. Judy, little overdone in black, both deficient in the three colours I want. T. and W. (3)—In this class I must express my regrets to Mr. Taylor; I meant to put my old favourite, Evenmark, 1, but in the flurry caused just then by a lost cat I muddled 312 and 312a, and put her second, she should have won over Hollyhock Queen; 3, Mayrian; I am very sorry. SILVER TABBY, M. or F.—1 and ch., the evergreen Hampstead Sure Again; 2, Silver Gem, looking rough after being chased about; 3, Richardson, Vagabond Giles, a "pick-up"; r, Taylor, Silver Wonder. BROWN TABBY, M. or F. (7)—This class provided the sensation of the Show, the gigantic Galantuomo; the fine S.H. classes at this Show and the good showing made by S.H. should surely prove a stimulus to S.H. fanciers! Will my confrère, Mr. Yeates, who is so good at statistics, tell us how long it is since a S.H. was Best in Show at a London Championship fixture? All the rest in the class looked like mice against this superb giant; 2, Tablette; 3, Tabbiana; r, Patchitab, Mrs. Hawley's well-known team; v h c, Crinkle. RED TABBY (2)—1 and ch., Kubnel, Fire Speck. BROOD QUEENS—1, Cochrane, Ch. Mona Villish Veer; 2, Tabbiana; 3, Andromeda. BRACES (11)—1, Cochrane, Manx; 2, Hill-Shaw, blues; 3, Cochrane, blacks; r, Richardson. TEAMS—1, Cochrane; 2, Carew-Cox, Abyssinians; 3, Broughton Hawley, tabbies. A.V. Open (9)—1, Allen Maturin, Siamese, S. Prince Sapphire; rest repeats, some unlucky. KITTENS, BLUE—1, Clark; 2 and 3, Wakeford. TABBY, A.C.—1, Higgins, nice well-grown B.T., Slimpin; 2, Dodgson, Paulinus, very nice red tabby; 3, Salmon, silver tabby, eyes too yellow, a pity. A.O.C. KITS—1, T. and W., claimed by Mrs. McLaren Morrison; 2, nice baby Abyssinian, Hill-Shaw; 3, a magpie, Mrs. McL. Morrison. In the side classes, such as Household Pets, I noticed some very nice S.H., some of which would have done well in the open classes; for instance two lovely "spotted tabbies," a good black, some really good reds, and so on. It is evident we still possess some good material in S.H., and Croydon is where they usually materialise. There were some nice NEUTERS, Class 92—1, Clarke, B.T.; 2, Norrie, Abyss.; equal 3, Newton, S.T., and White, Red Tabby. A curious cat in this class was a pale yellow tabby of sorts, bred from a Siamese and a white L.H.! In conclusion I should like to express my sincere thanks to my stewards, Mrs. Bazeley and Mrs. Jepson, the latter lady further having the kindness to send me in her car from Croydon to Denmark Hill.

N.B.—Pray remember—all correspondence to be sent me at Cleve Hall, Championship Hill, S.E. 5.

THE LONGHAIR SECTION.

January 2nd, 1929, proved a happy day indeed for cat lovers, when the Croydon Cat Club held their yearly exhibition at the Central Baths Hall, Croydon. This show is always one of the happiest and most comfortable of the season, and under the direction of the Misses Hill-Shaw reaches the high-water mark. It was delightful to have that famous writer and fancier, Mrs. Marion Cran, and her daughter amongst us again; and Miss Langston also, who was looking splendid after her brief sojourn in Germany. An unusual feature of the Show was the playing of a gramophone record, lent by Mr. Brooke, of the famous speaking cat, Peter Alupka. This cat, who was owned by Frau Dr. Sartoris, was heard by many thousands of people in the principal German cities. The sounds made by Peter, though unnatural, were most realistic, and when he sings, with his owner, "Ich hatte einen Kameraden," it is truly wonderful, though to my mind most uncanny.

Galantuomo, a wonderfully marked tabby cat of splendid proportions, brought out by Mr. Brooke as his best cat, won the special for Best in Show. Miss Sydney Fairbrother, always a most enthusiastic exhibitor and helper, tells me it is quite true that she has about 20 cats, who live together most amicably with a large family of dogs, and it is not unusual for a cat with a family of babies to leave them in charge of a dog whilst she takes a little outing, on her return finding her kittens safe and sound, when she once more takes on the arduous duties of motherhood. There seemed to be a goodly number of those most festive of all cats, the white Persian, present, with eyes like sparkling jewels of an almost unbelievable sapphire, and coats like driven snow. What a wonderful sight it must be to see a litter of white Persians at play! In white males Mrs. Sams' lovely cat, Ch. Hercules of Mayfield, won yet another championship, and Mrs. Cattermole's Lotus Blue Bell won 1st and championship in white females. I was delighted to see Ch. Gentleman leading once more in blues. He was looking splendid, and his coat, which is fine and fluffy as that of a kitten, was in perfect order, and a credit to his owner. He is nearly six years old now, and has seven championship certificates to his credit. In females Ch. Northway Shelmerdine won, whilst on this occasion Ch. Eliza Queen of the May came second. Amongst the blue males I much admired Mrs. Yeend's Don of Bredon, Merlin o' Mendip, a worthy son of a most famous sire, and Hendon Fairfax, a fine young son of Eros of Allington. In blacks Mrs. McClure's Hillingdon Black Knight won, and Ch. Colneside Cream Bunne led the way with yet another championship in creams. The honours in Chinchillas were taken by Miss Langston with Mab of Allington, and in males by Mrs. Sams' Glitter of Runnymede. Mrs. Stevens showed me a very pale kitten by that famous sire, Milord o' Mendip. Of lovely quality and sweet disposition, this kitten reminded me of Aethea and Natalie of Culloden—the two wonderful pale kits bred by Captain Guy St. Barbe. In the one case Milord being the sire and in the other the grandsire.

A charming wee kitten is Speedwell Allayne, As fair as a picture, and sweet as her name.

Bred by Miss Bateman, by Barry Prince Blue, ex Christine, we should hear more of her anon. Adam of Pensford, the blue male kitten who has won so consistently for Mrs. Joan Thompson, being 1st each time shown, on this occasion gave way to Hero of Culloden. Adam is just at the awkward age, and is losing his coat, whereas Hero is in full bloom and carries a wonderful coat of a sound pale blue. It seems Mrs. Yeates has only to take up a new breed to make it win! On this occasion Noniepone, a lovely smoke female, was first in her class. Congratulations, Mrs. Yeates, on your marvellous judgment.

Once more we have to thank our dear friends, the Misses Hill-Shaw, for their untiring efforts on our behalf. This Show has always been one of much enjoyment to exhibitors, and I am sure that all will agree that the credit rests with the Misses Hill-Shaw for their thoughtfulness, gentleness, and kindness to everyone concerned.

M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE.

BLUE, M.—1 and ch., Lady Eardley-Wilmot, Ch. Gentleman of Henley; 2, Miss George, Bunkered of Balbedie; 3, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Blessing of Culloden; 4, Mrs. Oglethorpe, The Aristocrat of The Court; BLUE, F.—1 and ch., Miss Joyce Fair, Ch. Northway Shelmerdine; 2, Lady Eardley-Wilmot, Ch. Eliza Queen of the May; 3, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Glory of Culloden. BLUE, Special Limit—1, Mrs. Oglethorpe, The Aristocrat of The Court; 2, Mrs. Yeates, Son o' Flick; 3, Miss George, The Flirt. BLUE, Limit—1, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Blessing of Culloden; 2, Mrs. Oglethorpe, The Aristocrat of The Court; 3, Mrs. Yeates, Son o' Flick. BLUE, Junior—1, Miss George, Bunkered of Balbedie; 2, Lady Eardley-Wilmot, Ch. Eliza Queen of the May; 3, Mrs. Oglethorpe, The Aristocrat of The Court; 4, Mr. Goddard, Ashton Pride. BLUE, Breeders—1, Miss George, Bunkered of Balbedie; 2, Miss Fair, Ch. Northway Shelmerdine; 3, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Blessing of Culloden; r. Mrs. Oglethorpe, The Aristocrat of The Court. BLUE, Novice—1 and 2, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Blessing of Culloden and Glory of Culloden; 3, Miss Manley, Blue Haze of Cardonald; 4, Mrs. Yeates, Son o' Flick. WHITE, M.—1 and ch., Mrs. Sams, Ch. Hercules of Mayfield; 2, Mrs. Cattermole, Lotus Billy Boy; 3, Miss Nichols, Fairy King. WHITE, F.—1 and ch., Mrs. Cattermole, Lotus Blue Bell; 2 and 3, Mrs. Sams, White Satin of Runnymede and Snow Queen of Runnymede. BLACK, M.—1, Mrs. McClure, Hillingdon Black Knight; 2, Mrs. Sams, Ch. Soame Desert Chief; 3, Mrs. McClure, Hillingdon Black Jester. BLACK, F.—1 and 2, Miss Barker, Gift of Ashford and Justine of Wellingborough; 3, Mrs. Mackenzie, Black Dot. RED TABBY, M.—1 and ch. and 2, Mrs. Neate, King of the Reds and Ch. Red Leader; 3, Miss Hill, Galdorn; r. Mrs. Nathan, Parkside Slam. RED TABBY, F.—1 and ch., Mrs. Soame, Soame Orange Mist; 2, Mrs. Martin Tims, Kiss Me Quick; 3, Mrs. Broughton Hawley, Tritoma; r. Mrs. Kennaway, Garboldisham Poppy. RED SELF, M. or F.—1 and ch., Mrs. Prince, Just in Time; 2 and 3, Mrs. Neate, Ch. Shahzada and Ch. Amber Princess; r. Miss Waldy, Condorrit. TORTOISESHELL, M. or F.—1 and ch., Mr. P. Connor, Glenshee; 2, Mrs. Nathan, Parkside Tricolour; 3, Mrs. Bryan, Ch. Ginger Belle of Barnsley; r. Mrs. Prince, Pride of Hillview. TORTOISESHELL & WHITE, M. or F.—1 and ch., Mr. Blandford, Gay Sally; 2 and 3, Mrs. Kennaway, Garboldisham Dame Patch and Garboldisham Tess. CREAM, M.—1 and ch., Madame Dolli, Ch. Colneside Cream Bunne; 2, Mrs. Budd, Ch. Mirza of Bredon; 3, Miss Langhorne, Ch. Shere Khan o' The Combe. CREAM, F.—1 and 2, Mrs. Stevenson, Pickles of Hanley and Ch. Meave of Hanley; 3, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Herbert, Marigold of Pineland. RED, CREAM, or TORTOISESHELL, Breeders—1, Mrs. Soame, Soame Orange Mist; 2, Mrs. Stevenson, Ch. Meave of Hanley; 3, Mrs. Neate, Ch. Red Leader. RED, CREAM, or TORTOISESHELL, Novice—1, Mrs. Stevenson, Pickles

of Hanley; 2, Mrs. Connor, Glenshee; 3, Mrs. Nathan, Parkside Tricolour. CHINCHILLA, M.—1, Mrs. Sams, Ch. Glitter of Runnymede; 2, Miss Langston, Silver Caesar of Correnden. CHINCHILLA, F.—1, Miss Langston, Mab of Allington; 2, Mrs. Aubrey, Ch. Langherne Sunshine; 3, Mrs. Sams, Dimple of Runnymede. CHINCHILLA, Breeders—1, Miss Langston, Mab of Allington; 2, Mrs. Aubrey, Ch. Langherne Sunshine; 3, Mrs. Sams, Dimple of Runnymede. CHINCHILLA, Novice—1, Mrs. Jepson, Langherne Darling; 2, Mrs. McLeod and Miss Tanks, Peri of Boreham; 3, Miss Bowden Smith, Moonbeam of Hyver. SILVER TABBY, M. or F.—1, Mrs. Bailey, Viscount Grey of Marston Trussell; 2, Mrs. Bryan, Ch. Florenzil of Frampton; 3, Miss Roberts, Flora of Frampton. SILVER TABBY, F.—1, Mrs. Noyes, Kentish Stormcloud; 2, Mrs. Sams, Ch. Dragon of The Cottage. SMOKE, F.—1, Mrs. Yeates, Noniepone; 2, Mrs. Noyes, Dusky Dreamer; 3, Mrs. Sams, Danette of Runnymede. BROWN TABBY, M. or F.—1 and ch., Miss Longley, Toby Stargrace; 2, Mrs. Soame, Soame Dinah; 3, Mrs. Kennaway, Molly Malone. A.O.C., M. or F., Breeders—1, Mrs. McClure, Hillingdon Black Jester; 2, Miss Hill, Galdorn; 3, Miss Roberts, Flora of Frampton. A.O.C., Novice—1, Mrs. Yeates, Noniepone; 2, Miss Nichols, Fairy King; 3, Mrs. McClure, Hillingdon Black Knight. A.O.C., Limit—1, Miss Langston, Silver Caesar of Correnden; 2, Mr. Blandford, Gay Sally; 3, Mrs. Stevenson, Pickles of Hanley. A.C. BRACE—1, Ch. Gentleman of Henley and Ch. Eliza Queen of the May; 2, Silver Caesar of Correnden and Mab of Allington; 3, Ch. Meave of Hanley and Pickles of Hanley. A.C. TEAM—1, Mrs. Aubrey; 2, Mrs. Yeates; 3, Mrs. Neate. A.C. STUD CAT—1, Miss George, Flick-a-Maroo; 2, Mrs. Yeates, Son o' Flick; 3, Miss Hill, Galdorn (?). A.C. BROOD QUEEN—1, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Day Dream. SELING CLASS, Cats or Kits, Long or Shorthair. A.C., Open—1, Mrs. Yeend, Don of Bredon; 2, Mrs. Aubrey, Ch. Langherne Sunshine; 3, Mr. Goddard, Ashton Pride. LONGHAIRD KITTENS, under 9 months. Black, M. or F.—1, Mrs. Bowden Smith, Twilight of Barley Hill; 2, Mrs. Soame, Soame Desirée; 3, Mrs. Yeates, Black Ensign. WHITE, M. or F.—1, Mrs. Sams, Twinkle of Runnymede. BLUE, M., 3 to 6 months—1, Mrs. Storrar, Tam o' The Glen; 2, Miss George, Benedict of Balbedie; 3, Miss Langston, Wodin. BLUE, M., 6 to 9 months—1, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Hero of Culloden; 2, Nurse Nichols, Son of Dawn; 3, Mrs. Thompson, Adam of Pensford. BLUE, F., 3 to 6 months—1, Mrs. Yeates, Columbine; 2, Mr. St. Barbe, Anthea of Culloden; 3, Miss George, The Coquette of Balbedie. BLUE, F., 6 to 9 months—1, Lady Thistledown-Dyer, Grissel; 2, Mrs. Stevens, Moth o' Mendip; 3, Mr. St. Barbe, Souriya of Culloden. BLUE, Novice—1, Miss George, The Coquette of Balbedie; 3, Mrs. Storrar, Tam o' The Glen; extra 3, Mr. Guy St. Barbe, Natalie of Culloden. BLUE, Breeders—1, Mrs. Yeates, Columbine; 2 and 3, Mr. St. Barbe, Hero of Culloden and Anthea of Culloden; extra 3, Miss George, The Coquette of Balbedie. BLUE PAIRS—1 and 2, Mr. Guy St. Barbe; 3, Miss George. RED TABBY, M. or F.—1, Mrs. Soame, Soame Tangerine; 2, Miss Hill, Mascaw of Belftinge. RED SELF, M. or F.—1, Miss Hill, Bunch of Belftinge; 2, Brabourne Witch. TORTOISESHELL or TORTIE & WHITE—1, Miss French, Polly Ebony; 2, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Hendon Petti-Sing; 3, Mrs. Prince, Rosiera. CREAM, M. or F., 3 to 6 months—1, Mrs. Norton, Verotto Petit Beurte; 2, Miss Langhorne. CHINCHILLA, M., 3 to 6 months—1, Langherne Treasure; 2, Langherne Duke. CHINCHILLA, M., 6 to 9 months—1, Desmond of Allington; 2, Dante of Allington. CHINCHILLA, F., 6 to 9 months—1, Mrs. Jepson, Tabshfield Mignonette. SMOKE, M. or F.—1, Mrs. Graham Coltart, Selma Starlight; 2, Mrs. Spencer-Smith, Argyle Smoke Knight; 3, Mrs. Graham Coltart, Selma Bengairn. CHINCHILLA, SILVER TABBY, or SMOKE, Pairs—1, Mrs. Spencer Smith; 2, Mrs. Aubrey; 3, Miss Langston. A.O.C., Breeders—1, Mrs. Norton, Verotto Petit Beurte; 2, Mrs. Rogers and Miss Herbert, Mandy of Pineland; 3, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Hendon Petti-Sing. A.O.C., Pairs—1, Miss Hill; 2, Mrs. Rogers and Miss Herbert; 3, Mrs. Dogson. GOLDEN-EYED WHITE, Cat or Kitten, L.H. or S.H.—1, Miss

L'Estrange Walsh, Primrose Queen; 2, not marked in catalogue; 3, the Misses Fairbrother and Wilson, Starlight Greatheart.

The special for the Best Longhaired Cat went to Ch. Gentleman of Henley. The special for the Best Short-haired Cat went to Mrs. French's Timkey Browne. The special for the Best Longhaired Kitten went to Mrs. Norton's Verotto Petit Beurre. The special for the Best Shorthaired Kitten went to Mrs. Ward's Annette.

THE SIAMESE.

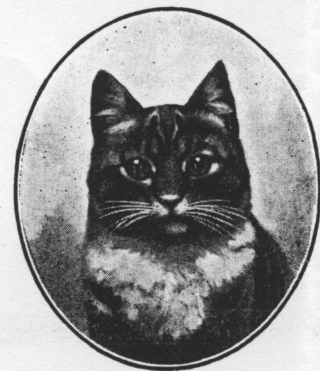
Reviewing the show of Siamese cats and kittens in the calm of another day, I am surprised to remember how few really typical specimens of that lovely breed I saw at Croydon. There were large classes of cats and kittens, and few of them were really bad examples, though one or two were that. The prevailing impression was of a good mediocrity. Dull, estimable, unexciting. The most thrilling moment was that which showed the kitten, Annette, peering up at me from her wire pen with that look of ageless wisdom which seems to belong peculiarly to the breed, and which all Siamese owners know well. It is a look which can become very sly and shrewd in an unhappy or badly treated cat. There sat this little creature with her small sable toes together and dark slim tail neatly coiled round them; the little pale body was poised with exquisite grace and delicacy, and the violet eyes fixed me with all the mysteries of the East in their gaze. It was a picture worth the day's hard work to see; a moment well worth waiting for; I had to hang back from my judging for awhile to savour the pure pleasure of looking at the little one with her long pointed face, slender lines, and fine close coat. So far as the catty part of the day went Annette was my real joy; as far as the social side went Croydon was a happy friendly re-union, as ever it is, under the smiling sweetness of its management, and it was delightful to see both the Misses Hill-Shaw so much better in health and spirits than this time last year.

In the Siamese male classes I was frankly quite disappointed. There was no outstanding youngster; the youngest was given as $\frac{3}{4}$ year old, and him I found too round in the head, a very bad fault indeed, and one which every conscientious judge must seriously discountenance; the youngling had fine dense points, lovely eyes, and tabby stripes on the forehead (another grave fault). There was too much of the tabby marking for my taste in all the adult classes, and among the males a great many round heads. In the end I had to decide between two elderly fellows, whom I felt sure, were already full of fame and honours, but there was no getting away from the type. I gave the championship to the darker and the older one, though I preferred the one he beat. The second prize-winner had a grey root to his tail, and though I knew it might be a temporary affair due to some injury I could not risk it, and later on I learned that the championship had gone to the veteran Ch. Bonzo! and that the second was Ch. Simzo, whose tail was temporarily off colour. Third prize to the young man whose faults I have already recounted; he was Southampton Prince Sapphire; Reserve to Pykunya, who was very pale with pale points, and too round in head. A word about Iamit. I hear that this stud sires good kittens, but it is a pity to show him, for he is tabby marked all over. He has a lovely head and good eyes. Mrs. Susan Lowndes is, I

believe, a newcomer to the Siamese world of cats; she showed a young stud in good condition, a handsome coat and nice points, but round-headed, and pale in eye with a green rim round the iris. I wish her the best of luck in her new hobby, and I know it will afford her an infinity of interest.

In Siamese female classes I had a severe shock. There was a lovely young queen, fifteen months old, with glorious eyes, typical head, pale body colour, good points, and fine shape. I picked her for champion, and when the young American friend who had offered to help steward for me took her from the pen I saw a look of horror and pity go over his face. As I handled the queen I felt the same way myself. Her little breasts were hot and tense, and full of milk. She had been taken from her babies to come to the Show! I put her back, feeling sick at heart; not only was she suffering physically, but I knew very well she must be upset emotionally, for these creatures are sensitive and affectionate to a degree; they love passionately, and suffer intensely, with fatalistic patience. She made no fuss or outcry. She let us handle her, and then sank back into the pen and folded her paws in resignation. Had she been even lovelier than she was I would not have given that little cat the championship, in case some other person might take another from her babes another day, thinking the prizes worth her pain. It was not hard ~~find a worthy first to take her place however; I spied~~ a dark little queen of lovely type; she reminded me of the beautiful Perak of long ago; perfect body shape, typical head, dense blue eyes; her only fault too dark a coat, but her age had some of that to account for. The third went to a very old queen, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ years indeed, of fine type. First and ch., Mr. Wickings, Fairlight Gipsy; 2, Dido; 3, Princess Cleo; v. Mrs. Grylls and Mrs. Beavis, Siam-sourya, a nice cat, but rather round in head. There was one really bad cat in this class, half black, with a green circle round the eyes. Fairo is a nice cat, of lovely type, and would have beaten the reserve but for a good deal of tabby marking. In

If You
Own a
Cat ..



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BREEDERS—1, Fairlight Gipsy; 2, Dido; 3, Southampton Prince Sapphire; r, Gykunya. **NOVICE**—1, Southampton Prince Sapphire; 2, Gykunya; 3, Siam-sourya; r, Miss Lowndes, Spider Boy. **LIMIT**—As in Novice. **BRACE**—1, Southampton Prince Sapphire and Kitya Nama; 2, Gykunya and Fairo; 3, Ch. Simzo and Prestwick Puteh Punya; r, Dido and Cora Capps. **TEAM**—1, Mrs. Hindley's handsome four; 2, Mrs. French's trio; 3, Mrs. Ellaby's team; r, Mr. Wickling. **STUD CLASS** (judged by progeny)—1, Ch. Bonzo; 2, Ch. Simzo; 3, Prestwick Puteh Punya. **BROOD QUEEN** (judged by progeny)—1, Princess Cleo. **NEUTERS**—Kim, a lovely young cat belonging to Miss Perkins; 2, Michael Angelo, a handsome ruffian, who, with his weight of years and flesh, looked as if he was a great pet in a very good home! While I knew that Kim was the more typical Siamese, I felt strangely drawn to Mrs. Newman Flower's Chubby Fellow! He looked such a home-lover. **KITTEN CLASSES, F.**—(1st t) Annette. In my book of notes I have one word beside Mrs. Ward's winning kitten, "Perfect"! Annette was bred by Mrs. Ellaby, from whom so many good things come. Second (litter sister to Annette), Novelle, only a degree less beautiful; 3, Asiza, bred by the exhibitor, Mrs. Ward, a lovely trio this; 4, Croham Ramona, litter sister to 1st and 2nd, would have been second had she been shown in better condition, a lovely little kitten, of which we shall hear more yet. **BREEDERS**—1, Novelle; 2, Prestwick Bata Biru; r, Frica, a very pale kit, with lovely eyes and pale points, she is a queer pretty beetle-browed little puss! **NOVICE**—1, Novelle; 2, Prestwick Mata Biru; 3, Croham Ramona; 4, Frica. **PAIRS**—1, Asiza and Annette; 2, P. Mata Biru; 3, Oouda and Frica. **CAT or KITTEN**—1, Novelle; 2, Asiza; 3, Southampton Prince Sapphire. (N.C.C. Classes.) **CAT OR KITTEN**—1, Southampton Prince Sapphire; 2, Oouda; 3, Kitya Nama. (Northern Cat Club Classes.)

In specials Fairlight Gipsy took the Breeders' Cup for best male or female cat bred by exhibitor, the S.H.C.S. Cup for best Siamese adult, the Creima Cup for most typical adult female cat. Did (the poor little lady sacrificed from her due honours for the sake of future nursing mother-cats) took the Champion Simple Bowl for the most typical headed Siamese in adult male or female), and the Oliver Cup for the best cat owned and bred by a member of the Croydon Cat Club, also Mrs. Burke's special for Siamese, M. or F., with the best head bred by exhibitor, Annette, the lovely kitten, took the Northern Counties' Cat Club Silver Special for the best Siamese exhibit, the award for the best shorthaired kitten, and then crowned herself as the best kitten, long or shorthair, in the show! She won my "Tatty Bogle" Cup for the most typical Siamese kitten bred by a member of the Croydon Cat Club, and Mrs Hindley's special for the most typical shaped head in male or female Siamese cat, kitten, or neuter. The Siamese Cat Club's Silver Spoon for the best Siamese kitten, and "Heaven bless the pretty varlet all her days," said my young American as we bade goodbye to the little puss. He had never been to a cat show before, and says he will never be able to look at cats in the same old careless way again, now that he has seen the Croydon Show! Good propaganda, I call that day's work therefore.

CAT CALLS.

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

Your correspondent, "Principia non Homines," has opened up a question which I trust the Governing Council will place on the agenda of their next meeting. It is absolutely necessary that a hard and fast rule should govern this matter. My opinion is that, according to the N.C.C.'s own Show Rules, the entries of the wife of the referee judge could not be accepted. I refer all interested to the nom de plume used by the correspondent. The persons concerned do not come into the discussion at all. It is a question for settlement between the N.C.C. Show Committee and the G.C.

As is known to several people, I have been corres-

ponding with the G.C., through their Secretary, with reference to the Rules governing the Newbury Show, 1928. I think it will be generally agreed that the constitution and Rules of the G.C. and the Show Rules issued by the G.C. badly need a thorough overhauling. It may be that I shall be able to help a little, if such help will be accepted in the right spirit. In order to devote what time I can to the subject I have recently resigned from the Executive of the Siamese Club.

If there is anyone sufficiently interested in the Cat Fancy who would care to join me in doing the best to promote a progressive policy, I shall be happy to hear.

HAROLD BASNETT.

Letters unavoidably held over.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

We are glad to hear that Major Woodiwiss, whose beautiful Abyssinian won the Ch. at Croydon, intend breeding this lovely variety, and has purchased Hula from Mrs. Carew-Cox. Nearly forty years ago another member of the Woodiwiss family owned some of the best Abyssinians ever seen, of the true ruddy "hare" colour, lost, we believe, in temporary craze for the untypical "Silver Abyssinian."

LIBERTY.

(BY MISS RICHARDSON.)

What a vexed question this is for cat lovers. Liberty, no liberty, or liberty within bounds. We read in a recent number of "Cat Gossip" that Sahib, a lovely cat, went into the woods and never returned. We remember a well-known Siamese that had the same fate, and many others. So that there is much to be said against freedom for our cats. There is always the hidden danger, the trap, the keeper's gun, poison, disease.

But what would the cat himself vote for? The long life, the warm bed, the never failing food, no danger, no delicious escape from it, no long hunt, no hunger, no love chase, no combat, bringing victory or defeat! and the beloved!! All safe, so safe and so dull! Perhaps those who have never known it do not miss it, but we must wonder.

Those who have gazed at those big brothers of our pets, the lords of the desert and the forest, caged in their roomy dens, surrounded by staring crowds, but themselves always looking through and above the crowds. They seem to be looking for the liberty that is their birthright, gazing into the desert, scanning it for their prey. "The lions roaring after their prey do seek their meat from God." They get a bit of dead horse on a prong!

Some day, I think, we shall keep no wild things caged. Yet still the question of our cats' liberty remains. If they are free they run risks, great risks, of painful deaths. They bring home disease. If they are always shut up, they don't seem to mind it—much. We wonder what other cat lovers think?

[Note by Editor.—Personally, for all reasons we are against valuable cats having their liberty. Those who cannot give cats reasonable space and opportunity for exercise should not keep them at all. But if a cat has been accustomed to liberty it is certainly bound to feel it very much if confined.]

VISIT.

January 1st, 1929.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's Jasmine of Farnborough to Mrs. Reynolds Sams' Ch. Hercules of Mayfield.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

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