

CAT · GOSSIP

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

Friends of the Crystal Palace, well known to all the Cat Fancy who visit the Ch. Show of our Premier Club, the N.C.C., will be glad that the Palace Trustees, at their last Annual Meeting at the Guildhall, reported a sound financial position. The new track on the football ground, costing £5,002, has been paid for out of the year's revenue. Over 1,215,000 people passed through the turnstiles during the year. For myself I have always treasured rather a sentimental value with regard to that great gaunt building. I passed so many happy days there at the time when we were showing Pomeranians, and when our home-bred, Byron Tit-Bits, carried all before him.

Mrs. Sidney Evans' many friends were much disappointed at not seeing her at Croydon, at which Show she had made several entries, with full hope that she would be able to come up from Taunton. Unfortunately, however, no reply came from the hotel in answer to her letter, and when, at the last moment, a wire was sent, with still no response, Mrs. Evans said she had to give up her visit in despair, and it was too late then to send the cats alone. She hopes to be with us at Kentish Town, and is bringing Sun of Flanark, her black boy, and Honey Bee, her handsome tortie queen. Mrs. Evans will be alone, as two of her daughters are enjoying the winter sports in Switzerland.

The following are the names of some of our new members who have joined the S.C.C.C.: Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. L. French, Miss Fair, Miss Baillie, Miss Ava-Sinuer, and Mesdames Roger and Herbert.

Scotch kittens always seem to me to enjoy the best of health, and Mrs. Colquhoun Fitzgerald has now four bonny Chinchilla babes. Cats and kittens from the Land o' Cakes journey backwards and forwards with the utmost impunity, and never appear a "penny the worse," but turn up again and yet again at our shows. I really believe we "coddle" our pets over much, and that cold is beneficial to the cat.

From Combe Head, Chard, Miss Langhorne writes that she is bringing her pretty cream kitten to the

Show on the 24th, and Miss Bowden-Smith, who hails from the same part of the world, is coming along too. She tells me that her smokes this year have been most disappointing—coating late and moulting early. The delightfully mild autumn, which all we humans so thoroughly enjoyed, had, like most things, its adverse side!

That great lover of our City of London, Sydney Smith, said "the best physicians are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet, and Dr. Merryman," and I feel sure that his words, though intended for ourselves, hold good in "Pussydom."

Dr. Diet.—So much has been written on this subject, that I think it will be interesting this time to hear what one of our Australian cousins has to say on the matter. These are his views: "In the feeding of cats breeders are generally agreed on only one point, and that is, that it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule. Two meals a day are as much as is required by the ordinary healthy cat. Meat, fish, vegetables, and milk constitute the staple articles of diet, and certain patent foods and meat extracts may be given to cats recovering from illnesses. The meat should be raw, but care must be taken that it is fresh and wholesome— even though it be 'catsmeat.' Fish is considered very necessary for cats kept in semi-confinement; the ordinary domestic cat, allowed almost complete freedom, has a celebrated fondness for it. Vegetables are essential to keep a cat's coat in good condition. They may be separately cooked, or those left over from household use, mixed with gravies to make them more attractive. Lentils are considered especially beneficial. All animals recognise the medicinal value of grass, and cats should be allowed access to it if possible. Food should never be allowed to grow stale in vessels, and it should be varied as much as possible. The cat should have plentiful supplies of water to drink, milk alone is not sufficient. Kittens should be given raw meat only occasionally. Warm milk, oatmeal, well boiled and covered with milk, vegetables and gravy, and fish and rice are much better.

In next week's "Longhair Lore": "Dr. Quiet."

VISIT.

January 14th.—Miss H. Hill-Shaw's **Blackberry** of Cademuir to Miss Alice Kent's **Ferish** (both Manx).

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE Siamese Club's Annual Report and Balance Sheet are to hand, and make excellent reading. We note that the campaign of spite and malignity carried on in certain quarters against the Club, and extended also to "Cat Gossip," resulted in a half-dozen resignations, against which are to be set THIRTY-THREE new members. This surely speaks volumes, as does the paragraph we quote: "To put it briefly, it will be seen . . . that the assets of the Club have increased from £82 3s. 4d. to £147 9s. 3d." Not so dusty for a year's working of a specialist club! It will be remembered that the Show results had been diminishing until the last superlative fixture. Again to quote: "The Show Balance Sheet shows a profit of £49, a figure which calls for congratulation when compared with the £1 loss in 1927." It can hardly be necessary to insist on the moral.

CAN any readers supply our American friend with the back numbers of "Cat Gossip" for which he is advertising?

WE regret to see German shows, in a manner unworthy of the usual German thoroughness, neglecting the ordinary S.H. cat sadly. In a Munich Club notice re a coming show we read: "Only 'noble cats' will be admitted: as such are reckoned Angora (Persians), Siam, Maux, and Nubians (Abyssinians)." A very out-of-date and paltry policy, and absurd, when a consensus of judges has just put a European shorthair in the very highest place at a London Championship Show!

REFERRING to Miss Langston's placing of a copper-eyed white first at Cologne, "Unsere Katze" says: "Even according to the strict judgment of the English judge, the whites formed a good class, provided that we stick to the equal valuation of the green and yellow-eyed, and only give the blue-eyed the advantage, if they hear." We think green or yellow eyes very unsightly—a golden or copper eye is a very different matter. As we remark elsewhere, a watered-down edition of a good (recognised) colour may be far worse than a good eye of a colour condemned at the moment by fashion.

THE remark made by Mr. Yeates last week, that the late Miss Frances Simpson would have nothing to do with a certain Brown Tabby which was brought out to compete for Best in Show, "gives one furiously to think" whether too much stress and importance is not, in some cases, placed on a certain colour of eye. A slavish adherence to certain minor points sometimes makes the task of the bad or weak judge a very easy one. There are some varieties in which only one eye colour should be admitted—for instance, no one could possibly demand that the Blue Persian should have different eye-colour from that which is fixed. But there are varieties in which two eye-colours would seem of equal beauty. Such is the case

with whites; whilst obviously a yellowish or greenish eye is just as much to be penalised as a pale watery-blue eye, there is no doubt that in the opinion of many, a deep copper or golden eye is as beautiful as the blue, and, this being the case (we purposely here lay no stress on the physical disadvantages often coupled with the blue eye), it seems to us utterly absurd to prohibit, or endeavour to prohibit, the golden eye.

THEN, again, eye colour in brown tabby and tortoiseshells. At any rate, as far as S.H. goes, there is no one whose opinion we should value higher than that of Sir Claud Alexander, who has repeatedly told us he admires a green eye in brown tabbies: he also does not believe in insisting on an orange eye in tortoiseshells. Personally, we think a bright green eye most charming in a tortoiseshell, it provides a lovely contrast. Not long ago one of our best known cat judges and writers wrote in a contemporary something to the effect of "Who would give a high prize to a tortoiseshell with green eyes?" Well, we should, most decidedly, if we had one better marked and coloured than its orange-eyed rival, for we think the one eye-colour as good as the other; and in the case of brown tabbies, whilst we do prefer a rich coppery eye, we believe in "tabbiness" coming first, and consider a well-marked tabby with green (really green) eyes superior to a copper-eyed one with inferior markings. In the same way the chief property of a tortoise is its "tortoiseness," and though it may be a boon to a weak judge to have the excuse of "wrong eye colour" to fall back on, we are not alone in thinking that when two eye colours are of equal or almost equal beauty—really a matter of personal taste—it is wrong and narrow to slavishly adhere to one colour only; we think, for instance, a pale washy eye of the admitted colour may be a far worse blemish than a bright-coloured eye of the penalised hue.

WE learn with regret that Mrs. Harvey has lost her old favourite, Pedro of Petaling, who, it is thought, contracted a chill at Newcastle. He was a very sweet-tempered cat, and a good sire. Valentino, whose advertisement appears in another column, is bred from Mrs. Harvey's original imported stock.

IT seems hardly credible that in a civilised State a body should exist, which, as "Pets" tells us, is the case in Chicago, sends out broadcast leaflets containing such filth as these quotations: "Surely the cat-killing hours of everyone will be their happiest hours. We offer 100 dollars to the one who kills the last nasty cat on earth." . . . "Most popular movement ever started, and the jolliest. Everybody smiles and kills cats; then kills cats and smiles, etc., ad infinitum."!!! We suggest to Chicago cat friends that they discover the leaders of this anonymous Society and tar and feather them. Chicago is well used to violent methods, anyway, and there are times when such are decidedly called for.

PERHAPS the earliest recorded instance of a chari-

table bequest in favour of cats is that left by La Belle Stewart. Frances Theresa Stewart was the daughter of a Scotch doctor, who sought refuge in France after the fall of Charles I. Returning in 1662—against the wish of Le Roi Soleil—she became a Maid of Honour to Queen Catherine, and it is said was beloved by King Charles II. In her will she made provision for annuities for Cats. She was the model for the Britannia on our copper coinage.

A CAT TALE.

A friend having a cat and kitten, and being obliged to go abroad, asked me to take care of them, the conditions being that when the kitten was old enough to leave its mother I should give it away.

They were brought to Taunton Station from their home, a mile distant, in a closed hamper, and I took them to Milborne Port by train, a distance of more than 30 miles. The cat was happy until her kitten was given away, when she disappeared, and no trace of her could be found.

Six months afterwards I was staying with her late mistress at the old home, when the cat walked in and recognised her old mistress by purring and rubbing herself against her. She then thoroughly explored the house, and settled down to a good meal, and never attempted to wander away again. In her travels she must have been well fed, as she was in good condition.

B. A. F.

LOST CATS. BY MISS ROLLER.

As so many people are under the erroneous impression that cats can always find their way home, I am quoting my own experience of a cat recently lost. He is a half-Persian, two years old, and had never been allowed to go out of doors. One day he escaped, and his mistress, who worshipped him, wandered about the streets night and day in search of him, also having notices printed and a substantial reward offered. Ten weeks elapsed, when one day a lady rushed round to say a cat very like the lost one had been seen in the next street. His owner at once went in search, and after wandering up and down suddenly saw him in the distance. She ran to him calling his name, and the poor little cat literally jumped into her arms, and his joy at finding his beloved mistress and being once more in his own home was quite pitiful to behold. He now seems none the worse for his adventure.

A TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY.

My grocer's man has just told me of the result of a lottery, in which he had invested somewhat largely, hoping to secure as prize a bottle of cherry brandy, which was one of some dozen good things to be won.

Looking down the prize list in the local paper one morning, he was sadly disappointed to see that not

one of his 32 tickets had gained anything. And the cherry brandy had been won by a stranger named Buster, whom nobody seemed to have heard of before. Sadly he wended his way home to break the news to his wife. "A chap called Buster's won the cherry brandy," he said. "Why! That's our cat!" she exclaimed. "I took one ticket in his name without telling you."

TOM LEON.

CAT CALLS.

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

LIBERTY.

Before we can decide on giving our cats liberty we must abolish the present over-populated condition of our Island home, and revert to the primitive, so that our cats may really enjoy the wild life Miss Richardson writes about; not an unmixed blessing. As I write it is snowing hard, and the farmyard cats, who have unrestricted liberty, hasten to the shelter of the buildings and beg for a saucer of milk and a plate of pieces. I think if the subject is thought over carefully, it may be taken as a considered decision, that the evidence points to partial confinement, with the comforts thereby entailed. Of course, there will always be some animals kept in confinement under cruel conditions by those unfeeling persons who do not care for animals; the remedy is to teach the rising generation to love and be kind to all dumb creatures. We can all do a little bit of propaganda on these lines.

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H. C. BROOKE, Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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