

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.)

Mdme. Pereyrol has had the good fortune to acquire a pair of very handsome blue Persian Cats, from Miss J. M. Fisher. This pair are named respectively Max and Lavender of Hadley. The young male, who had already proved himself a father of lovely kittens, was sired by Idol of Hadley, and Kittiwake of Monkton, owned by Miss Baggs, was his dam. Lavender was of entire Hadley blood, bred by Miss Fisher. Both cats carried the wonderful eye of the Azure strain. These blues will probably be benched at the coming Show in Paris this month.

With the passing of the Southern Counties Ch. Show the Fancy virtually commences its New Year, for the breeding season is keeping everyone's hands busy, and decisions must be definitely arrived at regarding the mating of our various queens, or we may be too late to obtain the coveted sire. Also a word of caution. With a new queen, possibly a recent acquisition, unusual supervision must be exercised, as each little feline has her own particular demonstration, and some are most slyly quiet.

But now a remark upon the S.C.C. Show. Everything ran very smoothly and happily in the hands of our bright Show Secretary and Manager, Mrs. Sharman, and she had the advantage of the help of her two young daughters, both of whom I saw with their brother on the day, and no doubt they are still helping at this moment, for few, except those who have undertaken the immense job of a Ch. Show, realise the amount of work to be done after the exhibition and general public have enjoyed their "day's outing!" Two improvements I specially noted in the Hall. The cats to be fed (meat or fish) were specialised—instead of the cats not to be fed, a system which in hurried feeding often cause vexatious mistakes to arise. I bring this to the notice of all Show Managers, and commend it! It was a brainy idea borrowed from Mrs. Fosbery, who started the improvement at Newbury, and as the meat and fish tickets are never so numerous as the old "not to be fed" tickets, the new method is in itself an economy. The other item was the breed designation, placed above pens. This I have seen before, I fancy at the National, though I will not be certain.

However, it certainly "adds," as I heard remarked, "much to the interest of the visitor to the Show."

While still on the Show subject I want all my kind friends to say "Bless you" to our two dear little kittens, Hendon Pitti-Sing, the tortie, and Hendon Mad Margaret, the black. They have been so brave and good, and a real delight to exhibit. Pitti-Sing visited five Ch. Shows and Maggie four; came home and took their "Nomis" like good children! En passant, may I remark that they neither of them had anything to eat during the show day except baby milk food, of which they partook very sparingly—waiting for their supper until their return home.

How can we expect things to prosper in Pussyness when the "Crème de la Crème," is so poorly represented? Only seven of these Devonshire baby delicacies at the Kentish Town Show, and several visitors exclaiming "Do show me those delightful creams—little ones, like that big cat over there!" This part of the Fancy requires widening out, and any novice taking up the cult would wisely work on this delicately lovely colour. With the world in general they would soon become intensely popular as pets. At the moment only the best Show specimens are procurable, and thus the prices are, as a rule, higher than the price which would popularise them as pets. Otherwise we should see them holding their own as the pet of the household with the much-loved blue. By the by, I missed that handsome cream kitten I judged at Portsmouth, and was sorry Mrs. Rogers and Herbert did not show him at the S.C.C.C.—Mandy of Pineland.

The next quarterly meeting of the Governing Council takes place on February 13th. As the first meeting of the year, we shall have many important questions brought forward. I see the agenda numbers ten items.

SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club was held on Wednesday afternoon, January 30th, at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street. The meeting was unusually well attended, about 40 members being present. A number of members wrote regretting their inability to attend, including Mrs. Veley, the vice-chairman, and Mr. Compton Mackenzie, the

president. The members present included Mrs. Hindley, Mrs. Cotes, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Mrs. Calvert, Miss Lowndes, Miss Susan Lowndes, Miss Cran, Miss Cadell, Miss Cressall, Miss M. Hill-Shaw, Mr. Basnett, Mr. Hearnshaw, Mr. Elliott Gorst, Mr. Woolf, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Yeates, Sister Stockley, Major Woodiwiss, Mrs. Maturin, Mrs. Cran, Miss H. Hill-Shaw, Miss Wilson, Mr. L. Lewis, Miss Dixon (Honorary Treasurer), and Mrs. Wade (Honorary Secretary). Everyone welcomed Mrs. Wade upon her first appearance after her illness.

Mr. Hearnshaw moved that the balance sheet be accepted, and warmly congratulated the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer and the other officers of the Club upon a most successful year. Mr. Hearnshaw also proposed that in future years the election of new Committee members should be carried out by postal ballot.

Major Woodiwiss proposed that the method of election used by the Croydon C.C. should be adopted. This was agreed to. The new set of rules being adopted by which the number of the Committee was increased from ten to twelve, and, as there had been two resignations (Lady Holt and Mr. Basnett) and four members of the present Committee were due to resign, the total to be elected was eight. Those elected were Mrs. Cran, Mrs. Harvey, Miss H. Hill-Shaw, Mrs. Hindley, Mrs. Burke, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Susan Lowndes, and Mr. L. Lewis. Miss Sydney Fairbrother was elected Assistant Secretary. Mr. Compton Mackenzie was unanimously re-elected President, and Mrs. Wade and Miss Dixon were re-elected Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively, amid enthusiastic applause. Mrs. Cran, Mrs. Maturin, and Mr. L. Lewis were elected delegates to the Governing Council—this being the first time the Club has had the right to elect three delegates. Mr. L. Lewis was elected chairman.

A letter from Mrs. French was read and discussed, and very hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Cran, and Signor Busetti for the presentation of cups. Major Woodiwiss pointed out that the Siamese C.C. now had the finest collection of cups of any specialist Cat Club in England. The date of the Annual Show was fixed for September 25th, the Show to be held at either the Philbeach Gardens Hall or the Holborn Town Hall. Miss Wilson was elected Show Manager, and her Committee is to consist of the Honorary Treasurer (Miss Dixon), one member of the Club Committee, and one member of the Club outside the Committee. Mrs. Basnett and Mr. Sam Woodiwiss will be asked to judge.

The proceedings then terminated, and it is greatly to be regretted that in the rush of other matters a vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretary was overlooked. Her devotion to the Club's interests is being largely responsible for the wonderfully successful year. She has sacrificed an enormous amount

of time and labour upon the altar of the Club's welfare. That her endeavours have been crowned with unqualified success is only a just tribute to the way in which she has performed them, and I am sure all members will join their good wishes for her speedy recovery to health to their sincere thanks for the work she has carried out on their behalf. Another vote of thanks was due to Miss Dixon for the most excellent way in which she has dealt with the difficulties of the Honorary Treasurership, and the applause with which both Mrs. Wade and Miss Dixon were re-elected must have assured them of the great regard in which the members hold them.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

MATTER must still be sent to us at Cleve Hall, Champion Hill, S.E. 5. Though this has been announced every week, a surprising number of letters have been sent to Bishop's Hull. We regret having repeatedly to put out a four-page paper only, but if we do not receive adverts sufficient to pay us for a 6 pp. paper it is not our fault. There is a very large section of the Cat Fancy which has not sufficient sporting feeling to help a genuine effort made on behalf of the Fancy, though always ready to complain and stop subscribing if there is anything they do not like: but as to **helping**, either by adverts or contributions, that is the very last thing they contemplate. We have had people cease from subscribing because their special variety did not receive sufficient attention: these same individuals had been approached by us to write on their variety from time to time, and had either refused, or promised to do so and not performed! So very fair and sporting.

THE Croydon Committee has paid us the compliment of unanimously choosing us to judge the S.H. section at their next Show, on November 6th. We shall be delighted to officiate if in the country, but we really don't think we can stand another winter here. If we give up "Cat Gossip," as certainly we shall do unless we raise more support in the way of adverts, there is no reason whatever why we should remain in this country, which, with its thousand inhibitions and piffling childish restrictions, becomes yearly more distasteful to us.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Miss Clark's Port Bredy Joe, the winning S.H. blue kitten at Croydon.

Mrs. Ellaby writes us that her beautiful Siamese, Novelle, died after pneumonia shortly after Croydon Show. Incidentally, we may remark that we feel very hurt at the manner in which all Siamese news has dried up. After the trouble we took in instituting a Siamese column—without which the

Siamese world would presumably have been left articulate, as it was before we supplied this incentive—we had really expected better things. How true the German saying *Undank ist der Welt Lohn!*

WE much regret to hear that Mrs. Wade has had to be taken to a nursing home, as a result of attending the Siamese Club Meeting last Wednesday, when she was quite unfit to do so, not having properly recovered from her illness.

WE mentioned recently that we had a dark red or squirrel-coloured S.H. cat, without one white hair, and not showing the very slightest trace of tabby markings anywhere. If any S.H. breeder would like to experiment with this cat we will allow him to be used for a fee of 12s. 6d., plus carriage. The cat is an absolutely unique specimen. When his coat dies it fades to a rich cream or straw colour. Possibly, suitably mated, he might breed creams?

EVANGELINE Weir relates some interesting feline character sketches in "Pets," our beautiful American contemporary. One cat mentioned was in the habit of dragging the woollen shawl on which he liked to sleep from one place to another, or even upstairs. "One cat, a dwarf, so small she could sit on an outstretched hand, had a violent temper like that of a human being. Once a door closed on her tail, and I released her quickly, thinking she would lick the injured member. Instead of easing her pain in the usual way she found ease in revenge. She flew at the door, hissed at it, clawed at it, and threw her small soft body against it till she was probably bruised. I dared not touch her until her fury was spent. She was like a child who has spent all its strength in a fit of hysterics."

THE daily Press has been indulging in some speculation as to the inexplicable antipathies displayed by some people towards cats or other animals. A medical man relates the case of a boy who was always affected by asthma if a cat was present in the room.

MRS. Ellaby gives good advice when she writes "keep a covered basket handy, and use it when moving kits from room to room, and so accustom them to this mode of transit before they go to new homes or to shows." We always advocate giving kittens early lessons in all happenings that may occur to them in their later career. Kits early accustomed to have their mouths opened and something placed therein will be easy to dose when the time comes. Kits which have made a few ten-minute journeys in their box or basket, in a car, or even in a wheelbarrow, will not be so panic-stricken when they embark on the real journey. Every regular exhibitor should possess a set of three pens—doubtless shabby ones could be got cheap from Spratts—in which cats should have a foretaste of being penned.

WE observe the opinions expressed that S.H. tortoiseshells are lanky and badly shaped. If this is really the case it is because so little attention has been devoted to them. We call the "British type"

of cat a cobby, short and compact one, but as a matter of fact this type is **not** the average type of cat, unless bred for; the average "cat in the street" being rather long cast. However, the term describes what we want, and does, to distinguish that type from the "foreign" type seen to advantage in blue Russian and Abyssinian. We have now a tortoise queen exhibiting the three colours to better advantage than any specimen now being shown as far as we can tell without face to face comparison, and a very compact, cobby little cat. Her eyes, a lovely emerald green, form a beautiful contrast. Had there been a class for torties it was our intention to have entered her at Kentish Town, though had we done so this accursed bronchitis, which has laid us low, would have prevented us from showing her.

A WRITER in a contemporary lately recommended the use of L.H. to cross with S.H. Unless some very urgent reason be present, we would certainly not recommend this. L.H. has done damage enough already to S.H. one way and another. Such crosses, though they may produce some nice individuals, are sure to produce, if not now in a later generation, some "half and half" coats. And we do not see that the type of head of L.H. can improve the virile British S.H. Personally, we are heretical enough to deeply regret the craze for L.H., which we fail to comprehend. Has any L.H. cats ever looked so noble and grand as Galantuomo?

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