

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 4

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## THE NEW "CHIEF" SPEAKS.

Since "Cat Gossip" owes its existence entirely to Mr. H. C. Brooke, the task of his successor is a particularly difficult one. Mr. Brooke has been known in the Cat Fancy for so many years, and has won the regard of such a large number of fanciers, that the majority of the readers of "Cat Gossip" think of him as a personal friend. My own career as an exhibitor is comparatively short, and it is inevitable that some of the people who were exhibiting long ago, before my cats were ever heard of, will compare my efforts as an editor most unfavourably with those of my far more distinguished predecessor.

I can only hope that some of these very experienced fanciers will make up for my deficiencies by contributing liberally to the columns of "Cat Gossip," for I shall be only too glad to retire into the background in their favour. I hope, too, that they will not be too harsh in their criticism, but will write and suggest improvements when they think they are desirable, instead of merely deciding that the paper is going to the dogs under the new Editor.

Although it is changing hands, "Cat Gossip" will not lose its familiar aspect. I propose to make no drastic changes in policy, but to do my best, as Mr. Brooke has done, to make the paper interesting to all Cat Fanciers, and to remember the claims of the common cat as well as those of the cat of high degree.

Mr. Brooke is not abandoning "Cat Gossip" entirely. He has consented to become Foreign News Editor, and **foreign news and exchanges should be sent to him** as usual.

When I was a novice exhibitor, not very many years ago, I found that Cat Fanciers on the whole were extraordinarily kindly and helpful. I hope that I shall experience that same kindness now that I am becoming that much more vulnerable person—a novice Editor.

E. K. WAKEFORD.

10, Red Lion Passage, W.C. 1.

## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

As readers will have already noticed, with this number we bid them farewell in our capacity as Editor and proprietor of "Cat Gossip." We ask all our friends to do all they can to further the interests of the paper for its new owner. We have not entirely severed our connection with the paper, for Miss Wakeford is entrusting to us the notes about Catdom in foreign countries, which have been a feature of this paper, and which many readers find so interesting. And so, to all good friends, Ave, atque vale!

CROYDON items: Miss Hill-Shaw informs us that at the recent C.C.C. meeting the following judges were appointed for the Show to be held, it is expected, on November 6th:—Siamese, Mrs. Cran; Blue L.H., Mrs. Wade; Chinchillas, Silver Tabbies, Smokes, and Household Pets, Miss Adams; all other Shorthair, Mr. H. C. Brooke; Blacks, Whites, Brown Tabbies, Mr. Powell; other classes, Mr. Norris; referee, Mr. O. Hill.

At Croydon Captain St. Barbe won Mrs. Cran's special for exhibitor making most entries in most classes; and the Woodroffe Cup, for the member scoring most points, went to Miss Cockram, with 100 points.

THE C.C.C. General Meeting is to be held at Ader-ton's on March 14th; and, perhaps, the S.H.C.S. meeting on the same day.

PARIS Cat Show was held in icy weather last week. A pair of beautiful African Servals was the "star turn" of the Show: alas, Granny Government has rendered the appearance of such exhibits, so much more appreciated at Continental Shows than here, an impossibility in this country. Mrs. Nathan judged Blue L.H., which was a good section, as were also the Siamese, judged by our Belgian confrère, M. Steens; the rest were taken by Herr Gloessel, Secretary of the Vienna Cat Club. M. Steens tells us there was an entry of 300. The Burmese Sacred Cats are deteriorating, probably through Siamese crosses owing to the impossibility of obtaining fresh blood. In Blue L.H. the chief winner was Downend, a son of Milord o' Mendip. In females, Grey Doll of Croham, sent out by Mrs. Basnett, and Colneside Carol's Fairy and Colneside Carreen, sent over by Mrs. Bazeley, did well. All the judges remarked on the poor and unkempt condition, "like gipsy children," in which many L.H. were shown. Owing

to our absence M. Steens had to judge all the Siamese. As usual in Paris, this was a good section, but he does not approve of the large number of little twisted tails, which French breeders like, whereas Belgians do not. He thinks, however, that some French breeders have been crossing Siamese with S.H. whites to obtain pale coats—that way disaster lies! The Abyssinian crack, Ras Tafari, with two queens came all the way from Vienna.

THE lay Press records an instance of a cat which caught a wild mouse and adopted it as were it her own kitten. The cat had to go to the V.S. for a few days, and her joy at being reunited to her little friend on her return was extreme.

A very singular coincidence was the death of Miss Wakeford's Blue S.H., Prince Mordkin, and of his brother, Prince Petrie of Cademuir, belonging to Miss Hill-Shaw, within a couple of days of each other.

THAT world-famous writer and cat-lover, Mrs. Crau, writes: "You have put so much work and valuable matter into the pages of 'Cat Gossip' that I should like to feel it will continue in the dignity you have bestowed upon it."

WE would advise country exhibitors to make a note of this address. Cleve Hall, Champion Hill, S.E. 5. One often wants to know of a place where one can have one's pets for a longer or shorter period. There is a suitable lock-up place, where several cats can safely be kept, or, in the case of a clean cat, such can be kept in the room. Terms are very reasonable. Such a place may often be a boon to country visitors. Some people have been here for years, and others come again year after year.

MR. H. Whitley, the well-known naturalist, of Paignton, has had the luck of obtain what it has for years been our ambition to get—a tame female Eyra. No more delightful and graceful pet can be imagined than this charming South American red self cat.

**Please note that from now on all matter intended for "Cat Gossip," except Foreign News and Exchanges, must be sent as early as possible to Miss Wakeford.**

### SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

As announced in the report of the General Meeting of the S.C.C., the Annual Show will be held on September 25th. The following ladies have kindly consented to serve on the Show Committee: Mrs. Wade (Hon. Secretary), Miss Dixon (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Burke (representing the S.C.C. Committee), Mrs. Ellaby (representing the S.C.C. members).

If any member has any suggestion or request to make re their Show, will they please write to me at their earliest convenience, and their letters will be put before the Committee and will receive their earnest consideration.

KIT WILSON (Hon. Show Manager)

Chalkpits Boarding Kennels, Springwell, Rickmansworth.

### LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

Miss Lilla Hotson is one of those plucky people for whom one feels the greatest respect. On September 28th she fell and injured her leg, and since that time onwards it has been a weary sojourn in Hospital and Nursing Home—latterly on crutches. Now, however, to quote her own words, she writes: "I am able to walk about the room, and hope to go home to my little cot on Saturday next. Mollie Malone has gone to Mr. G. Ripley, on a visit either to Ch. Vickers Vimy or to Jack the Dandy, an orange tabby, with a black sire and a B.T. dam, after which Mollie will return to me. My blue queen is with Mrs. Roberts, Hornby, Liverpool, and Guard's Brigade's daughter is with Mrs. Evans on breeding terms. I hope to have one of Polly Ebony's kittens too, as Miss French had her on that understanding. Being so crippled now, added to my old heart trouble, matters may be rather difficult; however I intend to manage, and shall doubtless be able to do so." It will be remembered that the veteran, Mollie Malone, is one of the very best B. Tabby queens, if not the best. She is now nine years old, and still breeding, and is the joint property of Mrs. Kennaway and Miss Hotson.

Cat owners, like other folk, have been indulging in that unpleasant experience, "an attack of 'flu,'" from our Editor (who has been laid up several weeks in London) downwards. However, notwithstanding. I was glad to see, with the exception of Mrs. Wade, that most members of the Governing Council felt fit enough to put in an appearance yesterday, February 13th—a bleak, bitter day being no deterrent. The warmest thing there was Mrs. Crau's "hot water bottle," which I was lucky enough to sit next to, and found as cheery at the conclusion of the meeting as at the beginning! Evidently of a placid disposition, our varied discussions did not "freeze the marrow of its bones"! I was glad to see Mrs. Sharman in her appointed place, for she has been hors de combat, though struggling manfully to continue her heavy work of the aftermath of the S.C.C.C. Ch. Show.

Spain may be reckoned as a new votary to the Cat Fancy. I have an inquiry for a pair of young blue Persians for that Peninsula.

Mrs. Eldred Clayville-Smith, who now owns Hendon Black Sorcerer, says that he is a "true Englishman," and has still a soft spot in his heart for "his Majesty," for when this gorgeous black cat gets excited and ruffles up his silky hair, there is nothing that soothes him so effectually as the strains of "God Save the King." This is in far-off Maryland, U.S.A. At the Baltimore Show the Sorcerer has started well by gaining points for his first Championship, and special for best black cat in the Show.

More news from America: Miss Elsie Hydon has been having many "field days." Lavender Cremona has gone to "best kitten" at five shows, the only

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times shown — Philadelphia, New York, Blue Specialty, Boston, and Toronto (Canada). She also won with kittens for "best kitten" at all other shows to which she took her kittens. Best cat fell to her lot at Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Boston, Toronto, and New Haven; the first two shows with Lavender Mighty Atom, and the other with Lavender Bendigo, both bred in her own cattery, sons of Hampstead Blue Fox, that winning blue kitten Miss Hydon bought at the N.C.C. Ch. Show in 1926. Best novice at four shows, and best female at five shows, and winners (equal to British Ch.), both male and female, at every show at which competing. This is, indeed, a splendid record, and I have been glad to put it into print, for it is exactly the success all who met Miss Hydon, and experienced her charm, would wish.

### No. 3.

**Dr. Merryman.**—Exit Dr. Diet and Dr. Quiet, enter Dr. Merryman—and so I introduce you to the last of Sidney Smith's doctors.

Dusky shadows lengthen, sun-down is near, cooler breezes start from unknown corners, and from fluffy balls of fur little round heads with bright eyes come suddenly into view—soft pattering feet wake distant echoes, and then, as if by magic, all is wild fun and frolic; everything is turned into a toy, nothing too impossible; feats of energy, stupendous; wild rushes and stampedes, endless joy, frolic, and fun till bedtime, when, our three good physicians having completed their day's work, a sleepy galaxy of happy atoms seek the arms of Morpheus.

Week by week (since May, 1927) it has been of great interest to me to write "Loughair Lore," and to peruse weekly the kind letters that have enabled me to do so. Before closing, therefore, will all those personally known, and unknown, who have so aided me accept my sincerest thanks. I will not say good-bye, but au revoir, for I shall always be glad to do my bit to help a paper to promote the welfare of our four-footed pets.

### WITH OUR CATS.

By F. M. BALLINGALL.

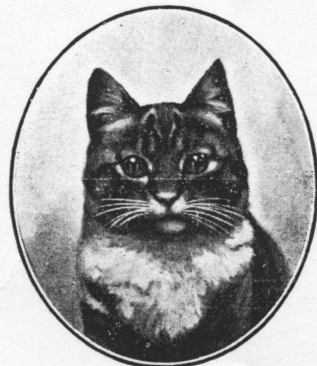
There is a brighter story to tell of another couple of pussies, equally beloved. One day they found themselves the parents of a wonderful family! Papa, in especial, was proud of the most marvellous little beauties he had ever seen, and could not be drawn from their side? Almost he seemed impatient of the maternal duties performed by his wife, doubtless believing he could have done them better himself, had Nature permitted it. He would not leave the basket that contained these sons and daughters of his if he could help it. So devoted was he that not only Mamma's, but Papa's meals had to be carried upstairs to the nursery, where he could eat while still keeping an eye on the infants! This is a very singular instance of paternal devotion in a highly domesticated situation. Quite possibly cats in a perfectly wild state may share the rearing of their young, as is

the case among many other creatures in natural conditions. Unfortunately, we know practically nothing of the habits of the few wild cats still to be found in some parts of Scotland, who see man only as the enemy who kills when he can. Though not the same variety as our domestic cats, who are of Egyptian origin, the English wild cats probably have much the same mating customs as those wild in Africa. Under our domestic conditions the male cat seldom lives with the female—the mating being the result of a temporary acquaintance.

We had for many years a great pet who remained a Tom because at that time we knew nothing about neutering. Fortunately, he was one of those rare males who can be house-trained, and he never went out at night—seemed, indeed, indifferent to the fair sex. We were much amused once to see seven or eight gentlemen on a neighbour's roof, in various postures, but all, with one consent, gazing up admiringly at a lady sunning herself upon a window-sill quite out of their reach. At the extreme end of the roof, with his back turned to her, reposed our own ungallant youth, and his air of indifference was, perhaps, too perfect to be genuine. Nevertheless, we were pleased and surprised when, being in the garden one morning, we noticed our Puss appear suddenly upon the wall, followed quickly by a sweet little lady. Then he jumped down, and she also descended. He led her to the open kitchen door,

[P.T.O.]

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talking to her all the way in the most encouraging tones. Slowly, doubtfully, pausing now and then, she went along by his side, but at the door-step she stopped. It was pretty to see how with every art he sought to soothe her fears, and assure her of a welcome in his house. Soft murmurs, tentative placing of a white fur glove on the step, with a cheery bend of his head to her shy little face, much coaxing and gentle pleading, and at last the dainty lady took courage, and, keeping very close to his side, she raised a slender limb, and laid one black glove beside the white one. Then she paused, and looked anxiously at him. Smilingly his eyes praised her courage, and she was just about to cross the threshold—to his manifest delight—when a well-meaning, but ill-advised, person within very quietly placed a saucer of milk on the floor!

In an instant she turned, flew into the garden, closely accompanied by her cavalier; simultaneously they leaped upon the wall, and down into the next garden—out of sight! He never induced her to make another attempt, though we often saw them together, and I feel sure he would have proved a devoted father had he ever seen his progeny!

(To be continued.)

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All Foreign News and Exchanges to be sent to the Foreign News Editor, Mr. H. C. BROOKE, Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

All other correspondence re "Cat Gossip" to the

Editor and Proprietor,

Miss WAKEFORD, 10, Red Lion Passage London, W.C. 1.

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