

CAT · GOSSIP

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First Edited by H. C. BROOKE

Edited by E. K. WAKEFORD

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LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE.

(Phone: Wimbledon 2889.)

The angel that presided at my birth
Said: Little creature, born for joy and mirth.
Go, live without the help of anything on earth.

William Blake.

The cat is one of the most beautiful creatures in existence. Always graceful, and equally graceful in action as in repose, or in every attitude it assumes, the perfect balance of its ways is ever a joy to the poet and true artist. It has been called cruel, but the cat that stalks a bird is no more cruel than the man who stalks a deer or the man who hunts a fox, nor is the cat that hunts a mouse more cruel than the man who plays a fish. It is what is called sporting instinct, and were it cruel in the cat who cannot reason, how much more cruel in the human being, who can. I remember once reading some lines which aptly describe the attitude of mind of many human beings to the cat:

She: That cat has eaten our pet bird!

He: The wicked beast must die!

Then she sat down to quail on toast.

And he ate pigeon pie.

Of cats Anatole France writes (in "The Amethyst Ring"): "My father was very fond of cats, and consequently I liked them too. He used to declare that cats are the wise man's best companions, for they respect his studious hours. Bajarjet, his Persian cat, would sit at night for hours at a stretch motionless and majestic perched on a corner of his table. I still remember the agate eyes of Bajarjet."

Lady Eardley-Wilmot who for years has been one of our most clever and successful breeders and exhibitors, has been obliged to give up a good many of her cats on account of the illness of her husband, Sir Sainthill Eardley-Wilmot. She has, however, retained her old favourites, Ch. Gentleman of Henley, Dazzler, the sire of so many winners, and Barry Prince Blue, bred and owned by the late Mrs. Esdaile. Barry Prince Blue was one of the most perfect cats I have ever seen, and I believe I am correct in saying he only missed his championship for lack of size. He was sold to America, and died after his first show, and I well remember the grief of Mrs. Esdaile on hearing of his death. Lady Eardley-Wilmot has only been breeding and exhibiting for five years, and has made her mark in the Fancy because she has aimed at the highest, and encouraged novices to do like-

wise. She has kept the best always, and encouraged and helped others to do the same, and, in spite of many difficulties, has gone on from strength to strength. She has parted with her lovely Ch. Eliza Queen of the May, May Morn of Henley, Pip Maroo, Rivermist, and three others, and sympathetic fanciers will all realise what a pang it must have caused her to part with these pets.

From Miss Winifred Peake comes the following: "This is to tell you that the booking of Alayne to come to you is not forgotten, but she evidently means to postpone it as long as possible. She is nearly 12 months old, and has not thought of calling at present. She is very well, quite an elegant young person. I'm afraid your rhyme,

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

about her has quite turned her head. I hope your beautiful Aristocrat is well? How they all love this glorious weather, as do we humans, too."

A day or two ago, when the weather was perfect, we motored into Richmond Park, and took lunch in the sunshine there. When we arrived everywhere was covered in a light mist, which gradually cleared away, revealing to our gaze the beauty of the surrounding landscape, where herds of deer were congregated together in the sunshine, blissfully enjoying the peace of their untrammelled existence. So in the gardens now. The pets run in and out at will, enjoying every moment of the sunlight. When Dewdrop was still with us (we called her Judy), a bird used to call in the early morning: "Judy! Judy! Judy! Who are you? Who are you?" Dewdrop was never happy until she could go out to see who was calling, and would sit gazing into the trees fascinated. Since we lost her the bird has never called again. He must have imitated our voices, but it seems strange that he has never called again, and that he never called anyone but Judy.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE most important event of the week is the formation of the new Abyssinian Cat Club, to which we wish all prosperity. A breed which is not supported by its own Club is very severely handicapped, since its progress depends entirely upon the enterprise of individual breeders, and it would certainly be a pity if the Abyssinians were allowed to disappear altogether. Many people who have never owned one

themselves admire them greatly, and may take up the breed now that it is represented by a Club.

FANCIERS have so few opportunities of meeting one another, except at Shows, that the Croydon Cat Club Meeting last Thursday was quite a social event. As there was a Siamese Club Meeting the day before, and the Short Haired Cat Society met that same morning, several well-known Fanciers had come to Town specially to attend them all, and were heartily welcomed by their fellow members.

WE hear that Miss Richardson has succeeded in breeding another cream shorthair, by her S.H. blue stud, ex a tortie queen. We hope that this kitten—who is only a few days old at present—will put in an appearance at the Short Haired Cat Show this summer.

CATS are evidently appreciated at their true value in Manchester, for the following advertisement recently appeared in a local newspaper: "Wanted, a cat, for a city warehouse, 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. each day, the owner to deliver and collect. 5s. per week and car fare paid." We should like to have been present when applicants came to be interviewed. As the cat was presumably wanted to catch mice, we suppose that some sort of efficiency test would be arranged, with a clockwork mouse perhaps.

TOPSELL, who published his "Historie of Foure-footed Beastes" in 1607, must certainly have possessed a cat of his own, for he writes: "It is needless to spend any time about her loving nature to man, how she flattereth by rubbing her skinne against ones legges, how she whurleth with her voyce, having as many tunes as turnes; for she hath one voice to beg and to complain, another to testifie her delight and pleasure, another among her own kind by flattring, by hissing, by spitting, insomuch as some have thought that they have a peculiar intelligible language among themselves." After commenting on the cat's capacity for returning to her own home if she is taken away from it, he adds: "As this beaste has bene familiarly nourished of many, so have they payed deare for their love, being requited with the losse of their health, and sometimes of their life for their friendship; and worthily, they who love beasts in a high measure, have so much the lesse charity unto man." Some of the conversations which we have heard at shows make us almost inclined to agree with this last remark!

WE'll our readers kindly note that the address of "Cat Gossip" is printed every week under "Advertising Rates and Subscriptions." Letters sent to us at the "Somerset County Gazette" Office have to be forwarded, and so may be too late to be included in the next issue.

WE know of a really excellent photographer, who is willing to visit catteries within reach of London on Saturday afternoons—he is a member of the Kodak staff, so is occupied during the week. We have proved that he possesses unlimited patience, for he actually succeeded in getting a good portrait of one

of our Russians, though she jumped off the table about twenty times, as is the habit of Russians on these occasions.

WE read that cats do not like the new glasses which admit the beneficial rays of the sun, and, instead of lying close up to the glass as they do when the sun shines in ordinary windows, do not approach closely. Scientists think that this sensitiveness to the rays has to do with the power of the cat to see at night. We fear that this means a lot of suffering for some cats, for the sadistic men and women, whose chief joy in life is painful experimentation, are not likely to miss this opportunity of inflicting torture in the name of science.

Miss Grayton writes that Frau Wirth was so pleased with the three cats sent to Berlin, that she sent the money for Romulus Faerie, sister to R. Nymph, but the cat had already been sold.

CAT CLUB MEETINGS.

SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

At the Meeting, held on March 20th, it was decided that the next Show should be held at Philbeach Hall on September 25th. Mrs. Bassett is to judge kittens, but the judge for adults has not yet been appointed, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss being unfortunately unable to judge. The Show Manager, Miss Kit Wilson, will be most grateful for any suggestions concerning the Show, if members will write to her—Chalkpits, Springwell, Rickmansworth.

SHORT HAISED CAT SOCIETY.

A Meeting of the S.H.C.S. was held at Auderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Thursday, March 21st, at 12 o'clock, preceded by a Committee Meeting at 11.30. Major Woodiwiss was in the chair.

The list of judges was revised, several new names being added, including a group of specialist judges for blues. It was decided that in view of the Society's small bank balance—£3 17s. 5½d. according to the balance sheet—classes should no longer be guaranteed at shows by the Society, but a fixed sum should be given towards the S.H. classes at each show.

Major Woodiwiss proposed that there should be a show for Short Hairs only in the summer, and this proposal was carried unanimously. It is probable that the Show will be held in Croydon, but details are to be discussed later.

The standards of points, which are now out-of-date, are to be revised, but this is to be left to the Committee, as it would have occupied too much of the time of a General Meeting.

Miss Hill-Shaw announced her intention of replacing the Russian Blue Cup, won outright by her Ch. Stephanie of Cademuir; and Miss Wilson offered a new cup on behalf of Miss Fairbrother, who could not be present. This is to be given for breeder's kittens.

Officers for the next year:—President, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss; Vice-President, Mrs. Maclaren Morrison;

Chairman, Major S. Woodiwiss; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss H. Hill-Shaw; Delegate, Miss H. Hill-Shaw; Committee, Miss Adams, Miss Hill-Shaw, Mrs. Carew Cox, Miss Perkins, Miss Richardson, Miss K. Wilson, Mrs. Sharman, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Maturin, Miss Cochrane, Miss Wakeford.

CROYDON CAT CLUB.

A General Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Thursday, March 21st, at 3.20 p.m. Major Woodiwiss was in the chair.

There is no change in officers or committee, the voting papers sent in to the scrutineer, Mrs. Stevens, showing exactly the same result as last year.

The Club's balance sheet is extraordinarily satisfactory, showing a balance in the bank of £19 18s. 1d., although there was no balance at all a year ago, and Miss Hill-Shaw was heartily congratulated on this success.

November 13th has been decided as the date for the next Show, subject to the approval of the G.C., which is a particularly suitable date, being three weeks after Newbury Show and three weeks before the Palace.

The most important motion before the meeting was Captain Powell's proposal that the agenda of every Governing Council meeting should be published in the Press two clear Fridays beforehand, and that nothing should be added later. This would give Club members the opportunity to inform their delegates of their opinions on matters affecting the Clubs. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Major Woodiwiss' proposal that relations of judges should not be allowed to show was also carried by a large majority.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Stevens, who again acted as scrutineer of the voting papers.

Miss Adams very kindly invited members to tea after the meeting, and her thoughtfulness was particularly appreciated by those who had come from a distance to attend.

ABYSSINIAN CAT CLUB.

A meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel on March 21st, to discuss the formation of an Abyssinian Cat Club, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss being in the chair.

Major Woodiwiss explained that the breed is in great danger of extinction, and would probably have disappeared already except for the activities of one breeder, Mrs. Carew Cox, who has continued to breed Abyssinians, although she has had little encouragement. There is a definite need for a Specialist Club to promote the interests of the Abyssinians, and to bring them to the notice of novice breeders. The meeting was in complete agreement, and it was decided to form a Club.

It was proposed by Major Woodiwiss, and passed unanimously, that Mrs. Gordon-Stables should be asked to become President of the New Club, as she is the daughter-in-law of the late Dr. Gordon-Stables,

who in one of his books gave a description and illustration of the first Abyssinian to be imported to this country, at the time of the Abyssinian War. Three Vice-Presidents were then elected: Mrs. Carew Cox, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, and Mr. H. C. Brooke, all of whom have been associated with the breed for many years. Mrs. Carew Cox has bred Abyssinians for the past forty years, always remaining faithful to them; Mr. Sam Woodiwiss owned the finest Abyssinians ever shown, Sedgemoor Bottle and Sedgemoor Peaty, both wonderful in colour; Mr. H. C. Brooke has constantly written articles about them in the Press, and bred many of the famous cats of the 'nineties, exporting in quantity to the Dutch, French, and Danish Zoos.

Major Woodiwiss was elected as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and those present at the meeting are to serve on the Committee, with the addition of Mrs. Cran and Miss Fairbrother, who could not be present, but are known to be in sympathy. The subscription was fixed at 5s.

Miss K. Wilson offered to give a cup for breeders, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brooke a cup for the best male, and Mrs. Cates a cup for the best female.

Mr. Brooke consented to write a pamphlet on the history of the Abyssinian Cat, which is to be distributed to members, and is to be ready in a few weeks. The standard of points already drawn up for the Short Haired Cat Society is to be submitted to the Vice-Presidents for revision.

Committee: Mr. Bassett, Mrs. Carew Cox, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, Miss K. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brooke, Miss H. Hill-Shaw, Miss Richardson, Miss E. K. Wakeford, Mrs. Cates, Captain Powell, Mrs. Cran, Miss Fairbrother.

All who are interested in the new Club should write as soon as possible to Major Woodiwiss, Woodrooffe, Danbury, Essex.

CAT CALLS.

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

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

I was interested to read your query about central heating for catteries. My mother has bred Siamese cats for over 30 years—with great success—in open-air catteries, with open wire-netting runs (the runs have zinc sheeting for roofs). We use no heat at all; the cats are let into the runs at breakfast-time, in all normal weather, even in winter; and the only times we have had colds and chills—to doctor—have been after sending cats to shows. This last cold winter we have not had a single cold or running eyes among six grown-ups and two kittens, and during that extreme frost it was quite usual to take out any left over food from the catteries frozen quite solid; yet they are all thriving. We live at the top of the Polden Hills, with biting North and East winds, and our garden has no wall or protection at all from the wind. I think if one gives the cats very deep warm beds to snuggle into, and does not open their windows too wide in severe weather, in fact, if one uses common sense, they do far better than if coddled. My mother is unfortunately ill in a nursing home, or she would have answered this.

Truly yours,
MARJORIE FORDEN.

Ashcott, Somerset.

"CANKER."

By F. M. BALLINGALL.

THE EAR.

Should the ear be much inflamed, and there is scratching and shaking of the head, clean it, if possible, with cotton-wool soaked in B.L. Then push a little warmed boracic ointment as far down as you can. Do this night and morning, until the ear is less irritable. Then make a lotion of pure meth. spirit one part, boiled water three parts. Put a teaspoonful of this down pussy's ear; hold the flap close, and let him shake his head. He may scream (more from anger and fright than pain) and struggle, but you must persevere. Gradually, he will grow used to it. Do it three times a day, before his meals. As the ear gets easier, increase the amount of spirit. Equal parts of this and of water suffices for general treatment. The edge of the ears may be rough and caked. Bathe with warm bor. lotion, before using the sulph. lotion. While the ear is **very badly inflamed** outside and inside the flap, used B.L. only, but begin the other as soon as you can. The spirit kills the insects in the root of the ear.

Unless cats are very much together, or as cats is exposed to contagion from many other cats, I do not think this canker very contagious. Some cats are quite immune. Of two cats I had who were always together one never had it. The other had it, with a little of the eczema, at times, for several years, and then it stopped.

SULPHURATED POTASH LOTION.

Sulph. potash, one level teaspoonful; boiling water, one pint. Use the potash at once, as the least damp spoils it. Crush up the green and yellow rock, and put it in a basin. Pour on the boiling water, stir and cover. Stir from time to time. When cold, pour off the clear liquid into a bottle. It remains good a long time—so long as it keeps a deep yellow colour, and does not precipitate. Do not **rub** it on—dab it. This is also a perfect cure for **true mange**, and for **eczema**, only it must not touch the eyes.

Feed your cats on lean raw beef—as much as he likes twice daily—with a little liver, **lightly** fried, **in addition**, occasionally. Liver is good where there is constipation. In **slight** cases, the health is not affected; but strength must be maintained with cod liver oil, Bovinine, and Virol, is-necessary. **One grain** quinine pill every morning is a splendid tonic. I get them from my chemist at 1s. for 100. Liquid paraffin is cheapest bought by the pound (or half-pound) in your own bottle; and meth. spirit, also, by the pint. An ounce of sulph. potash gives several teaspoonfuls. **Bovinine** keeps any time, and I earnestly recommend it. It is pure **juice** of **raw beef**. Bovril, Oxo, soups, and so forth, are no good at all—nice hot drinks for **us**, like tea. Bovinine is food, and saved the life of a

dear baby I knew, and has helped to bring strength to cats of mine that famous vets. have given up.

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F. M. BALLINGALL.

SHIPS' CATS.

Every big passenger liner and every cargo boat has its own crew of cats, who live an adventurous life, very unlike that of their contemporaries who dwell on dry land. In the majority of cases they are happy enough, for most sea-faring men are kind to animals, and there is generally at least one real cat lover among the pantry or galley staff, who takes the ship's cats under his care, feeds them, hides their kittens from the authorities, who might condemn them to a watery grave, and is regarded as responsible for them. This is a post sometimes monopolised by the night watchman, who is glad of any company on his long, lonely watch.

Black cats are even more treasured at sea than they are on land, and nearly every ship has one as a mascot. One of the Australian liners once boasted of a particularly fine specimen, who reigned supreme for a long time on the ship, and allowed no usurpers. When the ship arrived at Sydney, she invariably left it, strolling in a dignified way down the gangway when the passengers disembarked, and not returning until sailing day, though no one ever discovered how she knew when sailing day was due. On the home-

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ward voyage she usually presented her proud owner, the pantryman, with a litter of kittens. One sailing day, however, she failed to return, and her fate was never known—she may have been kidnapped by some other ship, or she may have decided to settle down with an Australian husband.

Kittens actually born at sea hardly ever seem to have accidents, but imported kittens sometimes come to an untimely end before they have found their sea legs; falling down some companion when the ship is rolling. A good many cats seem to decide to go for one or two voyages for their health, joining the ship before she leaves England, and deserting when they come back to England again. Incidentally, I once knew a dog who evidently thought that the air of China was not suited to him, for he walked on board one of the passenger liners at Shanghai, made friends with the chef, and got a free passage to Singapore, where he disembarked and immediately attached himself to the Royal Engineers' Mess.

Curiously enough, ships' cats seem to take no interest in birds. On most ships coming from the East there are many canaries, bought by the crew in the Chinese ports, but though no one takes any precautions, none of them are ever devoured by the cats on board. This could be understood if all the cats had spent their whole lives on board, but it is strange that the one-trip cats are equally uninterested.

No pedigree cat ever goes to sea, except as a passenger. A very fine Siamese once occupied the cabin de luxe of a liner from Hong Kong to Singapore, and was serenaded nightly by a motley collection of the ship's cats, who sat in rows on the deck outside, but though they may have persuaded her that a sailor's life was the life for her, her owner thought otherwise. One cargo boat had a crew of hairless cats for a time, but they all died when they left the tropics.

Charming kittens occasionally attract the attention of passengers, and find new homes on land. A certain passenger, having been presented by the chief steward with a kitten, promptly asked him to have it neutered for her, and when he explained that there was no vet. on board, said that she thought the butcher would be able to manage a little job like that!

E. K. W.

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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,

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