

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 (Tel.: Wimbledon 2889).

.. He does not die that can bequeath
Some influence to the land he knows,
Or dares, persistent, interweath
Love permanent with the wild hedgerows;
He does not die, but still remains
Substantiate with his darling plains. . . .

Hilaire Belloc.

The Speedwell Cattery lies in the heart of Kent, which may truly be called the garden of England, for in this beautiful county of ancient villages and wayside inns, lovely old houses, cornfields, hopfields, and winding lanes one finds a beauty and charm that fill the soul with a delightful peace and a new understanding of Nature's bounteous ways. The Speedwell Cattery is in itself a garden where the bluest of blue Speedwells blossom and enjoy themselves to their hearts' content. A garden and meadows of more than 20 acres, a sunk rose garden, and a lily pond surrounded by trees is their playground, whilst their house is 30 feet long by 15 feet wide, with windows all down one side, which open from floor to roof, and pinoleum blinds, which keep away the sun when its rays become too piercing. At meal times the pets come running each to its own little house, where it finds its meal awaiting. There is no quarrelling and no jealousy. Each knows her own house and her own appointed place. June of Hawkhurst is one of the famous cats who reside here, and I think everyone knows how famous are the Hawkhurst cats, whilst Bramble, by Son o' Flick and Twinkletoes, is quite one of the nicest queens I have seen this season. She has perfect eyes, but her wonderful short face is her chief attraction; her nose is almost non est, her head is quite round, and she is a lovely pale blue. She is in kitten to Colneside Christopher. Gay Girl is another nice queen, and is notable for her glorious eyes. She is by Blue Craggie, ex Speedwell Gold Dust, and is expecting a family by Ch. Dion of Allington. Beauty, a typical Buzz-Buzz queen, who won 1st at the Crystal Palace one year, is notable as the mother of Sweet Sultan and Jennifer of Allington, whilst Twinks, by Nailstone Omar, ex a Barry Blue John queen, is famous as the mother of Sara the magnificent. Lilybet, a dear little sister of Bramble, is so called after Princess Elizabeth, who thus pronounces her own name. Dear little Alayne was nursing her two kit-

tens by The Aristocrat. Everyone knows my opinion of Alayne I am sure, and to see her thus with her babes gave me a pang of the keenest delight, but I fear I must not say too much about these lest I be considered guilty of exaggeration! Alayne is a queen of lovely quality and refinement, her coat is like silk of the finest texture, her head is beautiful, and she is a perfect shape, and she makes the most adorable little mother. Her two kittens, The Admiral and The Amethyst, are of the same exquisite quality, and I am sure if only The Aristocrat could see them he would be prouder than ever he has been before! Miss Peake and Miss Ridley, who live together at Dawkins, Smardon, Kent, the home of the Speedwells, specialise in Blue Persians only, and all their pets are a lovely sound pale blue.

I will now give you the promised letter which I had from Mrs. Thompson last week: "This afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Hasemer motored over from Surbiton with Juno's little son, by Son o' Flick. This kitten has just returned from an interesting holiday in Devon and Cornwall, spent in a caravan attached to Mr. Hasemer's car. Having travelled 750 miles and, incidentally, become so accustomed to motoring that on his return he has frequently gone out to tea, where he placidly sits on the lap of his mistress without making any effort to escape. His menu on the journey consisted of raw beef, fish, glaxo, and nursery milk, and sometimes, when his owners grew tired of al fresco meals and went to an hotel for dinner, he was quite happy to be tied to a table leg by a lead. He had perfect health throughout, and gained 6ozs. in weight each week. At night he slept at the foot of Mrs. Hasemer's bunk, creeping up in the morning hours when it commenced to grow chilly, and gently patting his mistress until allowed under the eiderdown. Twice he escaped from the caravan when it was parked for the night, but on these occasions rushed up the nearest tree and waited to be coaxed down. Once when they returned to the caravan they found an open locker and the kitten surveying tons of fruit with a puzzled expression. These had filled his basket, and were rolling about the floor! The fasteners on the lockers always being a source of attraction to him, they were obliged to be made quite secure, for on one occasion he was found surrounded by a lot of broken china! Whilst my husband and I were staying at Torquay part of the Atlantic Fleet was in Torbay, so we took the oppor-

tunity of visiting H.M.S. Rodney. The pussies never being very far from our thoughts we were interested to hear that there were seven cats on board which were so well provided for that they were only mildly interested in the rats. Although accustomed to about 1,300 officers and men they fled before the invasion of visitors, and I only saw one sleek half Persian, which peeped at me coyly from a safe distance. On Friday my husband and I spent a delightful afternoon with Mrs. and Miss Galletly, admiring and playing with Eve of Pensford's lovely trio of kittens by Ch. Dion of Allington. These kittens are some of the prettiest I have seen this season, and have the beautiful coat and muzzle one associates with the Allington cats. Eve was looking particularly well, and was obviously very proud of her charming little family. Another very pleasant visit was to the Misses Peake and Ridley, at Smardon. Here the pussies spend an ideal life amid acres of field and garden, and all look fit and well. I hear that you are very soon to visit the Speedwell family yourself, so will await your notes, which I always find most interesting. Two kittens I must mention, however, are those by The Aristocrat, ex Speedwell Alayne. They are two lovely kittens, the male one of the palest I have ever seen, with large round eyes like saucers, and the female rather darker, but excelling in head, which is very broad. I am hoping to see these kittens at the Shows later in the season, when I trust they will do well and fulfil their early promise."

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE have decided to make this issue of "Cat Gossip" a small one, because many people are away on holiday, so that there is really very little news. Even papers which have a very wide circulation are hard put to it for news during the "silly season," and though we might follow their example, and start a heated correspondence—all written by ourselves—on some subject of no interest to anyone, we think it will be a better plan to have a bumper number when the holidays are over.

SOME of our subscribers have not had their "Cat Gossips" until Friday morning lately. The last few numbers have been posted in London, instead of direct from Taunton, as they were before, and as we do not receive them until nearly seven o'clock on Wednesday evenings, they miss the country post. They are all in the post before midnight, but envelopes which are sent at the printed paper rate are often kept back for some hours if the mails are large, which is the reason for the delay. We should be glad if subscribers who do not receive their "Cat Gossips" at all would send us a postcard. A certain number go astray every week, and though this is usually the fault of the postal authorities, it may be due to some mistake of ours, which can only be rectified if we are told of it. All the env

marked "If undelivered return," but we hardly ever get any back again.

WE must congratulate Mrs. Smallwood on the arrival of her Princess Souri's first kittens, by Ch. Simzo. They are all males, and are very big, strong babies, so that it is to be hoped that their mother will succeed in rearing them all. They will be too young even for the litter class at the Siamese Club Show next month, but perhaps we shall see them at Croydon.

THAME Show is becoming quite an important event for cat fanciers, and is so easily reached from London that most owners can accompany their cats and kits. This year it is to be held on September 19th, and Mrs. Yeates is to judge the cat classes, of which there are many.

Miss Langston is judging the kittens at Sandy this year, and we must remind our readers that entries close on August 19th, and that entry forms may be obtained from F. W. Western, Esq., Sandy, Beds. We are printing the kitten section of the schedule in full, so that exhibitors may see for themselves that the classification is comprehensive.

KITTEN CLASSES AT SANDY SHOW.

Judge: Miss Langston.

Black, Male or Female; White, Male or Female; Blue, Male; Blue, Female; Blue, Breeders; Blue, Novice; Blue, Pairs; Brown Tabby, Male or Female; Red Tabby, Self or Shaded, Male or Female; Tortoiseshell or Tortoiseshell and White, Male or Female; Cream, Male or Female; Chinchilla, Male; Chinchilla, Female; Any Other Colour, Male or Female; Any Colour Breeders, except Blues, Male or Female; Any Colour, Novice, except Blue, Male or Female; Any Colour, Limit, Male or Female; Any Colour, Open, Male or Female. Shorthairs—Siamese, Male or Female; Siamese, Male or Female, bred by Exhibitor; Any Other Colour, Open, Male or Female. Restricted to Members of the Midland Counties' Cat Club—Any Variety Kitten, Longhair or Shorthair. Restricted to Members of the Sandy Society—Any Variety Longhair Kitten; Any Variety Shorthair Kitten. Litter Class—Long or Shorthair, open to all.

CAT CALLS.

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

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

Madam,—May I remind cat lovers of the necessity of providing for the safety of their cats while they are holiday-making. By far the best plan is to get a neighbour to feed them, and leave them in the house. At no time is the cat thief more busy, and who can tell the fate that is in store for your own lost pet? Many of these thieves regularly supply certain shops, whence they are sold to the hospital laboratories, and those dens of iniquity—the "research" hells. In the recent Special Report of the Research Defence Society, which extorts large sums from an ignorant public, contained in "The Fight Against Disease," which it issues



quarterly in such a manner that it is exceedingly difficult to buy a copy, I read that six young kittens were fed with cultivations of different germs, and died of general blood poisoning five days later; others, fed with material taken from a rat, eight days later. Also I read of Cat 91, who was kept for a week alternately spinning round and round, and balancing itself miserably against a wall. This torture was paid for with money given by the Government to these licensed fiends out of the National Health Insurance fees. Observe the number—Cat 91.

SAVE YOUR CAT!

BIRTHS.

July 30th.—Mrs. Carew-Cox's Abyssinian, **Empress Zanditu**, 3 kittens by same Owner's **Ras Isis**.
 August 5th.—Mrs. Smallwood's **Princess Souri**, three lovely strong boys by Mrs. Duncan Hindley's **Ch. Simzo**. For Sale later. "The Bowers," Cradley, Malvern.

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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, 30 31, Brooke Street, London, E.C. 1.
Telephone: Holborn 8081.

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