

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).

"I was always a friend to Nature. If I went out to the open field I enjoyed to breathe the fresh air first, then those singing birds seemed as if they were calling me. Even branches of the trees looked as if they were beckoning me. And I went deeply into Nature as if I were one of them. When I leaned against a tree I felt I was a tree, and when I watched the birds I felt I was a bird too. Sometimes I was a light butterfly flying over the meadow flowers. Sometimes I was a cricket singing in the bushes. I quite remember I spent a whole morning watching the twinkling stream of the crystal-like water of the River Yada, and my soul was flowing in it. I picked up a snow-white blossom of Sagi, so to smell its sweet scent, and I forgot whether I was the flower or that little flower in my own hands was myself."—Joshio Markino (from "When I was a child.")

I should like to thank all fanciers who have so kindly sent me their congratulations on my kitten wins at Kensington. I am exceedingly proud of these kittens, for although I did not actually breed them myself, I had a great share in the responsibility of their arrival into the world, for I bred their mother and their grandmother, and their great-grandmother came to me when but a kitten of a few months. Princess Una, their mother, and litter sister to The Aristocrat, was with me when she came in season, and I chose Son o' Flick as a mate for her, and motored her over to Mrs. Yeates early one morning. When the kittens were but a few weeks old they came home, and have been here ever since.

The Rev. Ogle Wintle writes to say that one of his blue queens has produced an almost pure white kitten in a litter of blues by his stud, Jerry of Runnymede. Until now her kittens have always been true to colour. I think the cause must be that the mother developed a temperature during the time she was carrying the kittens, as I once had a similar experience with one of my own queens. There is no possibility that this queen could have mis-mated or that the kitten is a throw-back to some ancestor, for both sire and dam are pure bred for generations. I wonder if any breeder has ever had a similar experience?

I am sure everyone will be as delighted as I was

myself to read Miss Langston's news of her pets at the famous Allington Cattery. "At the present moment 'The Allingtons' number forty-six cats and kittens. A week or two ago there were 55, but some have since gone to new homes. All my queens have bred except Dionetta, whom I have not allowed to mate. She is only a year old now, and I want to show her this coming season. Fortunately she has allowed six weeks to elapse between her 'calls,' and when in season doesn't go off her food. You will remember she was best blue kitten at the Palace and Kentish Town, and in my estimation has fully fulfilled her kitten promise. With the exception of Ch. Marise, my blues are late. Melusine refused to mate the first time she visited Flick-a-Maroo, but as a result of her second visit has six lovely babies, now seven weeks old and terribly lively! Her daughter, Dorinda, who was best blue kitten at Reading last year (and, indeed, won the special for the best blue cat or kitten!) had four beautiful sons by Ch. Dion born the same day, and you can imagine what it is like when we go to feed these ten little bits of quicksilver, as they are in one room together! Ch. Prudence has the most exquisite and palest blue kitten I've ever seen by Ch. Dion, but unfortunately he has only half a tail. It is a real tragedy, for he is just perfection in every way. He and Prudence live with a litter of Pekingese puppies. Prudence likes dogs better than cats, and last year brought up an orphan puppy with her daughter Pleasance (now in U.S.A.). Prudence frequently washes these puppies too. Jennifer (Ch. Marise and Barry Prince Blue's daughter) had two by Ch. Dion, but unfortunately her milk arrived very late, and one died. The other nearly succumbed, but a little Chinchilla queen took him on until Jenny's milk arrived. Drusilla (last daughter of the late Evadne of Allington and Milord o' Mendip and thus full sister to the late Eros of Allington) had three sons by Flick-a-Maroo, and her milk also came late. Two of the kittens were born with their front legs turned backwards. I could not understand why they cried so (the little Chinchilla also took on these till Drusilla's milk arrived), and when I discovered the reason I put the kits on the teats and several times a day gently massaged and moved the little limbs. Drusilla, who is an enormous queen, overlaid one, but the other soon got full use of his limbs, and now I can't tell which was the deformed one and which

the other, so complete is the cure. Ch. Marise had three bonny daughters by Blessing of Culloden, and two went to fanciers in Germany last week. Both are delighted with the kittens. Marise is now in kitten to Ch. Dion. I've had an excellent Chinchilla breeding season, but had chiefly boys, and so have sold many as pets, and one as a future stud. At present I am retaining for show two kits of Nadine's and Silver Cæsar's litter, and one boy, and Ch. Midget's daughter by Peter of Aldwych. Nadine's litter did wonderfully well at Kensington in spite of being only ten weeks old, and Miss Busted tells me they accounted for the biggest cheque in prize money! The fourth little girl went to Cheshire a few days after the show. Old Ch. Midget begged so hard to have another family yesterday that I let her mate with Cæsar. She is nine years old, and for the last two years has bred and reared kittens well. For four years previously she did not breed in spite of many visits to various studs, and then, for some unaccountable reason, turned over a new leaf. Corrina, who had a fine early litter by Ch. Glitter, expects a family by Ch. Dion next week, and we are very excited to see the result of the first cross that Mr. House advocated. It took one half-hour to persuade Dion to mate Corrina! He thought I had made a mistake, and that she was intended for his friend Cæsar! My 'boys' have had a good season, and I hope several of their progeny will appear at the winter shows. Tiddle-Winks visited Ch. Dion in the spring, but refused to mate with him. However, about a fortnight ago she paid him a visit, and was amiability itself, and so I hope she will have in due course another as lovely a litter of six Dions as she had last summer. It was most unfortunate these beautiful babies all died when they were about a couple of months old. This year I have gone very slowly with my weaning, and no kitten has had raw meat until 11 weeks old at soonest. They have had a little fish at 8 or 9 weeks, but chiefly various cereals and milk puddings and porridge made at first with Oatrex or patent barley, and later with Quick Quaker Oats with a stock fish liquor basis. They have had stock of sheep's head broth chiefly with chicken broth (made with chickens' head and necks), and rabbit broth when obtainable. The kits are all well grown. I've had no diarrhoea at all, and I think their coats are better than usual. I use a lot of Grade A milk and sterilised milk, and lately have found a place where I can get milk from Jersey cows. I also use Casol, which I find the best of all dried milk foods for kittens. I wish I could get goats' milk. Last year I was able to get a little from a friend, but kids, like kittens, are late this year. However, Jersey cows' milk is a good substitute."

BIRTHS (continued from adjoining column).

August 12th.—Miss Wakeford's Blue Mystery of Plaicy, 4 fine kittens by Owner's Prince Igor of Cleve (Russian Blues).

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE have only kept a very small corner of "Cat Gossip" for ourselves this week, as we have no news from fanciers. Most of them are away on holiday, and must be rejoicing in really glorious weather, so that we may expect to see some fine examples of sunburnt complexions at Thame Show, and the S.C.C. Show in September. We shall probably go away for our own summer holiday some time in November, as we seem to be adding innumerable other jobs to our normal ones just at present, and our desk is piled high with books waiting for review, and letters waiting to be answered—we run a correspondence column in one of the weeklies during August, acting as "ghost" for a friend of ours, who is really in Paris, but who is officially always at the service of her readers.

BRIGHOUSE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW.

To be held on Saturday, August 31st.

LIST OF CLASSES FOR CATS.

Judge: Mrs. Herbert Wood.

Silver cup, to be won outright, for Best Cat in Show, kindly given by Mrs. Herbert Wood (Gladys Cheetham). Gold medal for Best Cat opposite sex to winner. First prize, 10s.; 2nd, 8s.; 3rd, 6s.; entry, 1s. 6d. Class 145, Longhair A.V., male or female, adult; Class 146, Shorthair, A.V., male or female, adult; Class 147, Longhair, A.V., male or female, under six months; Class 148, Shorthair, A.V., male or female, under 6 months; Class 149, Household Pet, any age. Entries close August 24th, and no late entries. C. Sutcliffe, 1, Rock Street, Brighouse.

BIRTHS.

August 1st.—Mrs. Ellaby's Bello, 5 kittens by Croham Vichnou.

August 3rd.—Mrs. Ellaby's Princess Cleo, 6 kittens by Ch. Bonzo.

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Blue Longhair—Class 173, Female, 5 to 9 months; Class 174, Male, 5 to 9 months; Class 175, Male, adult; Class 176, Female, adult; Class 177, Male, under 5 months; Class 178, Female, under 5 months. Any Other Colour Longhair—Class 179, Male, adult; Class 180, Female, adult; Class 181, Male, kitten; Class 182, Female, kitten; Class 183, Breeders, kitten; Class 184, Pairs, kitten; Class 184a, Novice, kitten. Shorthair—Class 185, Siamese, adult; Class 186, Siamese, kitten; Class 187, A.O.V., adult; Class 188, A.O.V., kitten. Household Pets—Class 189, A.V. Longhair, neuter; Class 190, A.V. Shorthair, neuter; entry fee, 6d.

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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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