

THE CAT

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CONTENT

Short Stories - Branch and Group News - Members Corner - CAT CHAT dealing with press and other published cat papers.

Selected photos of Members' cats and kittens - notes relating to Leagues' activities and appeals

Literary contributions and photos welcomed, but no publishing fees paid.

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NEXT ISSUE 1st April 68

TIME MARCHES ON believe it or not before the next number of our magazine is in circulation we shall or should, weather permitting, be full of the joys of spring and have left the dark and dismal of Winter behind us. What a depressing period we have endured, the full story of our misfortunes is given in "round and about".

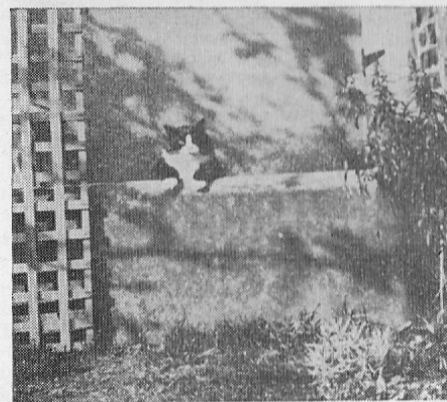
EDITORIAL DILEMMA 'to be or not to be that is the question' or in other words what to include in The Cat or what to leave out apart from Branch and Group reports which have always to be given first consideration. There is never a shortage of material for the magazine but when and how to use it is another story. There are memoirs, tales and poems, long and short and several lengthy contributions, that could only be used in serial form, that await inclusion in our little paper. If therefore your story or poem, having been accepted, does not appear as soon as we both would wish, do please remember the editors dilemma is a reality and we are really sorry for any disappointment we may have caused you.

STARTING POINT; in the January magazine we stressed the need for economy in whatever direction possible: naturally there has to be a starting point and we have to decide where to start. It is hoped our readers will agree with our decision which we give in "round and about" because it concerns the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on July 6th, 1968, in the Kent Room at Caxton Hall, London, W.1.

YOUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO PAGE 20, COLUMN, 1 OUR REFERENCE TO THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OUR ECONOMY DRIVE.

A. A. Steward

EDITOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



ROUND AND ABOUT

The Secretary's Comments on "this and that" concerning cats and kittens and the work of the League.

APOLOGIES:

To our friend and member Mrs. Beltram of Worthing for the inconvenience we have caused by giving her name and address and thereby inviting correspondence etc., with which she is unable to deal. In our anxiety to accede to our members wishes we overlooked her request for her name and address not to be included. Will Worthing members please direct enquiries to Headquarters.

DOVER:

The Branch has lost its corner stone in the death of Miss Olive Watson, who succeeded Miss Rose Chapman as Honorary Secretary, and for many years carried on the work of the League in and around Dover. In the January magazine we said she was steadily improving but alas by the time THE CAT was in circulation she had died. The news of her death came too late to stop the publishing of our comments. She will be greatly missed not only locally but at our Annual General Meetings where she was a prominent figure; she was very much liked and respected.

LIVERPOOL & FORMBY:

We very much regret to have to report the death of Mrs. Irene Hammerton who for a considerable time, after the death of Mr. & Mrs. Pemberton represented the C.P.L. in that district. We did not hear much about her work through the columns of the magazine but we knew from members living locally

that she was a very ardent supporter of not only the C.P.L., but animal welfare organisations in general. There is no doubt that the energy that she put into her work and the strain of her general activities contributed to her all-too-early departure from this world. She and Miss Watson will be difficult if not impossible to replace.

SLOUGH:

We would like to pay tribute, although somewhat belatedly, to the late Mr. L. C. Ackland, who together with Mrs. Ackland organised the Annual Cat Week Bazaar. Only those who have had experience of the responsibilities that these events entail can appreciate how much has to be given in time and effort to achieve success. That the Annual Bazaars that were held under the guidance of Mr. & Mrs. Ackland were so successful proves how much we owed to them. The Bazaar of 1966 was his final contribution to this annual money raising event and at that time he was far from well. It was therefore with no surprise that we learned that it would not be possible for him to undertake the organising of the Bazaar which would have been the final event in Cat Week of last year. It was impossible at the time to say why we decided to cancel this very popular local and long standing Sale in aid of funds; We expressed on behalf of our members and readers our appreciation of all that was done on behalf of the League and our deep sympathy with Mrs. Ackland and their family.

A good many of our readers will have read in the press of the death of Baroness A. de Stoeckl but few will have known of her keen interest in the C.P.L. and cat welfare in general. She was a keen and ardent supporter of our work and she regularly attended the Annual Bazaar. We in turn helped with her stray cat problem.

ULSTER:

We have not only now had the opportunity to officially welcome the new Honorary Secretary, although she has been responsible for the Branch "notes of the month", for the past three or four months. This introduction should have taken place some time ago after having had the pleasure of meeting her at the Annual General Meeting. Thank you and good luck Miss McKee.

NOTTINGHAM:

We welcome too the new Honorary Secretary for the Nottingham Branch Miss P. C. Brabyn. She has contributed their notes of the month since the resignation of Mrs. Davies and introduced herself in the January magazine. We wish Miss Brabyn the best of luck and look forward to hearing from her regularly.

SUSSEX:

Mrs. H. G. Perry has very kindly stepped into the breach and taken over from Mr. G. Holmes, who, as was stated in the last issue of the magazine, resigned in November last year. The Committee has been reconstituted and we feel that their enthusiasm will carry them over any obstacles they may meet in the work of the League in that part of the country.

GLOSSOP:

No doubt some of our readers will have noticed the absence of reports from the Glossop Branch and will be pleased to know that they will be continued after an unavoidable period of absence. From the enquiries we have received at Headquarters it was obvious that the work of the League in that district had been followed by a large number of C.P.L. supporters.

NOTE: Although in the past we have not made a feature of introducing new Branch or Group Officers etc., we feel it is something which our members have a keen interest and propose to ensure, as far as it is possible for us to do so, that we keep our readers up to date in this respect.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

As has been mentioned in the editorial this annual event will take place on Saturday July 6th, and the unwritten law is that all voting members, that is those who contribute a Life Membership Subscription or who pay £1.1.0d. annually, under covenant or otherwise, should receive a notice and invitation to this meeting. They are also entitled to a copy of the annual report. Every year we spend a considerable amount of money on printing and postages much of which we feel could be saved if we knew for certain whether the subscriber in question wanted an invitation, was able to attend the Annual General Meeting and did wish for a copy of the annual report. As you will no doubt have gathered the proposals are that we should know who does actually require an invitation to the Annual General Meeting and who would like to have a copy of the annual report. Our estimate is that on printing and postage we waste well over £100, and we are sure that none of our subscribers would wish this to continue. We suggest that we start at this point and economise by ensuring that those who wish to attend the Annual General Meeting are sent an invitation and that annual reports are posted to members who want one; if as we hope those who are entitled to an invitation and report having read this appeal would be kind enough to indicate whether they would like an invitation and or

a report it would help very much to ensure that we make a good start in our economy drive.

THIS AND THAT:

We are often introduced, in one way or another, to various items that could be of interest to our readers and we propose from now on passing that information on, through the medium of this column under the above caption. We do not claim that the items are not already known in some quarters but we feel sure that some of them will be new to you. We must however, make it quite clear that any mention that is made of a particular item or article is not intended as a recommendation but merely that we are satisfied that it serves a useful purpose in the field of cat requirements.

On this occasion we would like to mention the washable and hygienic rubber cat brush, obtainable from the cat brush Company, 75, Ware Road, Hoddesdon, Herts, price 7/6d. We have two of these brushes in use at Headquarters.

"Cataplant" is a new and quick way of providing grass for your cat, and is quite satisfactory if the directions are followed, as an alternative to Cocksfoot Grass Seed for the period during which the seed which we supply is germinating and until the grass becomes an established plant. Cataplant is marketed by Horticultural Supplies (Boston) Ltd, Boston, Lincs. The price is 3/6d.

For those who use Cat-Litta, which is sold under various branded names, Unipets Supply two 28 pound bags for 32/6d, and four 28 pound bags for 57/6d. Carriage paid for in the United Kingdom. The address is 10, Exeter Mews, off West Hampstead Mews, London, N.W.6.

What would seem to be the latest in this particular line is a Cat's scratching bar, a revolving cylinder, carpet covered, mounted on feet and obtainable from Dept., S.E., Maylords, 125, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Price 25/-, plus 4/6d. carriage. (We have not seen nor experimented with this item). More cat requisites next month.

THE HELPING HAND:

Sometime ago we introduced this caption as the beginning of a scheme to help either directly or indirectly other less known organisations with which we have a common interest and which perhaps are not even known to our readers. We have been in contact with a number of them and have had their literature or a report of their work. To give space to a full length report on their individual activities is impossible so we shall give their names and address so that those of our supporters who wish to help will have the

opportunity of doing so. We may also introduce people with whom we correspond who have taken into their care stray cats and who would like someone to adopt one or more of them. The "adoption" does not mean taking charge of the cat but contributing

a small amount each week for food for these unfortunate creatures. This is a matter which will need careful consideration and when we are satisfied that the idea is practical we will proceed with it.

A. A. Steward

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Wally (Waldo Padishah) constant companion and friend for 15 years; passed to a happy land Jan. 20th, 1966.—Reg. A. Pain.

In memory of my much loved Charlie—gently put to sleep on Dec. 14th, 1967, aged 17 years.—V. S. Ugle.

In memory of gentle, affectionate "Pixie" who died tragically 18th Jan. 1967. *Never* to be forgotten: also in memory of much-loved "Penny" who died suddenly early Jan. 1968.—A. L. Irvine (Miss).

In loving memory of my dear Black Doodle, a faithful companion for nearly eight years, who died on 5th December, 1967.—G. L. Staunton.

In memory of my beloved Sooty, T.W.4263 who succumbed following a brief illness on 6th Jan. 1968, at the age of about 11 years.—A. C. M. Bayley.

In loving memory of our darling Siamese Koko T.W.3497 who went to sleep on Dec. 6th, 1967 aged 15½ years. Sadly missed by his brother Ching 15½, a lovely blue-point boy.—E. & J. Collier.

READ, MARK AND LEARN

The Life History and Magic of the Cat, by Fermand Mery, translated by Emma Street, Published by Paul Hamlyn Ltd., Drury House, Russell Street, London, W.C.2. 63/-

If you allow the three guineas price to divert your interest, you will never know what you have missed. Without doubt it is the book of the century. A modern version of the *Book Of The Cat* by Frances Simpson and the embodiment of the majority of the works of many famous writers whose love of or interest of cats was, or still is as the case may be, profound. This is not all.

I enclose a cheque for £7.10.0 for the Cats' Protection League from the Wonesh Animal Charities Sale and much regret the delay in forwarding this. M. ODELL FOSTER.

In loving memory of my dear "Francis", TW.4159 aged 3½ years, died on Friday, 26th January, 1968, of a kidney disease. He was a gentle and loving cat; his death has left me broken-hearted. Till we meet again in God's kingdom, forever loved and remembered.—Mr. John Murphy, Glasgow.

In memory of Timothy Tarquin, killed by a car January 27th, 1968, aged six months.—Never forgotten.

Our darling "Kiki" TW.1519, beloved little companion for 13½ years, released from illness by kindly sleep Feb. 28th, 1952; also dear "Tiger" TW.2039, a humble little creature, fell asleep Feb. 21st, 1958, aged 12. "Until we meet, little ones"—A. & D. Turner.

In memory of our sweet little Wendy TW.4458 who died from feline enteritis on Jan. 24th, 1968, aged 7 months. Remembered with love and sadly missed by us both.—Antoni and Gloria Grudzinski.

* * *

Extensive research has enabled the author to give, probably for the first time in the history of British publications, unique data, masses of illustrations including some brilliant colour studies, also a remarkable presentation of old and new pictures, drawings and sketches culled from the four corners of the earth, almost. Everything for the cat lover could wish for, historical, and documentary is given in this magnificent produced publication. No collector would want to be without this book and no cat lover should miss the opportunity of reading the most absorbing 235 pages that I have ever read.

A. S.

Please find enclosed cheques to the amount of £14.17.0, and £4.10.0, from the sale of stamps. AUDREY COZENS and SHEBA.

BRANCH AND GROUP NEWS AND DIRECTORY

Enquiries from anyone wanting a kitten or who would adopt a cat or two are welcomed by C.P.L. Honorary representatives whose names and addresses are starred. *

But please note:— DO NOT CALL AT ANY OF THE ADDRESSES EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT: MAKE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE FIRST.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT REPORT

The beginning of December seems far away with the crocus showing—however, we started the month with a good effort by a helper in Kelvedon, Mrs. Snell, who raised £617s.6d., by a coffee morning, plus £5 from a well-wisher who could not attend. New ground was also broken by a Christmas Bazaar at Witham, organised by a new committee member who lives at Terling. As this entailed transporting goods and helpers from Chelmsford, the result of barely £30 was disappointing. The date was too late and the hall too far from the town centre—better luck next year when it can be arranged earlier!

Four Whist Drives were held and a £5 donation was appreciated—this from a lady who found her kitten three miles away, through a newspaper advertisement actually, but the "Cats' Protection League hounds" were on the trail and have made a good friend. A number of kittens around 5 months old have wandered off and been returned home—also a 2 year old alsatian dog—Yes we do care for dogs as well!! in emergencies. This, and several adult cats seem to have come our way, due to the "emigration exodus". One of our old committee members has "sold-up" and is off to New Zealand in March, along with her husband, mother and a large dog and three cats! Animal transport by sea seems quite reasonable so we hope that others will endeavour to take their "old faithfuls" with them when conditions here drive them overseas.

We gratefully acknowledge 2/6d. from our friend in Bow and a parcel of stamps from St. Austell.

Christmas boarders and a holiday abroad for Mr. & Mrs. Grove put paid to any further trappings of cats living rough, but we now have our own trap and hope to organise a rota again. It proved unsuccessful with a nervous cat which was trapped as a kitten and released.

18 cats and 36 kittens have gone to homes in December and January. Once again can I appeal for anyone who can board a cat or

kitten for short periods to cut out cattery fees? It is also pleasanter for the animal to have a "home"—though, of course, they must be kept indoors for safety—but they usually settle quickly and take to using an earth or peat tray.

EDMONTON GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. S. L. Brown and Hon. Organiser, Mrs. C. Walledge, 39, Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton London, N.9.*

We must begin this Report with an apology, as we did not submit a Report for the New Year and we are sincerely sorry about this but we were all so very busy.

Our three Firework Victims have all been claimed and duly returned to their homes. 'Le s Eleven' has also been claimed and neutered on our advice.

Sadness has descended upon us recently at the passing of one of our Pensioner Cats—Dearest Mimi—aged 22 years. How we miss that dear old lady, with her sweet and charming ways; she was happy and contented with us until the end and is buried in a peaceful spot in our garden.

On a happier note, we must thank Mrs. Craster and Mrs. Spencer of Kensington, W.8., for the wonderful Bring & Buy Sale which they held for us on December 8th. This was surely the Party to end them all; it went like a bomb thanks to the efforts of these two worthy ladies who did not stint time or effort to raise the grand sum of just over £90. As this was the first party held for us for a long time, we feel overwhelmed with gratitude and admiration. It certainly proves what can be done when people who have the welfare of cats at heart set to work to help in such a practical way.

Our stall at the Animals Fair was again a success, and we would like to express our thanks to Headquarters for making it possible for us to be represented.

In recent months our funds have been eaten away due to the enormous number

(continued on next page)



CATS ON STAMPS — 3 by Philaticus

I should hate to suggest that those countries which have issued sets devoted specifically to cats are, philatelically speaking, amongst the lowest in the scale, in that they are preying upon the gullibility of thematic collectors and issuing stamps far in excess of their own real postal requirements. Be this as it may, we are, once again, turning to one of these countries this time. I think, however, that we should pocket our philatelic pride and let our joy upon observing members of the feline family triumph. After all, if it were not for such countries, we should perhaps bemoaning the fact that the cat had not achieved philatelic recognition, and this, I feel sure we all agree, it most definitely deserves!

Having said all that, our set comes from Yemen, a kingdom in South West Arabia which was proclaimed a United Arab State in 1958. Following a revolt in 1962, stamps were issued concurrently by the Republican Government and the Royalists. Although I

should hate to get involved in Middle-East politics, our stamps are royalist issues! They date from 1965 and are six in number. At least the charming variety of cats portrayed on them seem to be oblivious of the political turmoil of the state issuing them. Taking the vertical stamps first, we have a silver tabby Persian, a red tabby and a very appealing cream Persian. The horizontal stamps show, in turn, a black Persian, a rather ferocious looking tortoise-shell and, finally, a seal point Siamese. Thus, our collection of different types of the cat family has been added to quite considerably by this attractive set.

We shall again be turning to this part of the globe for a subsequent article in the series, although not to Yemen.

Your readers can obtain the stamps illustrated from almost any of the dealers who have stands in the Strand Stamp Centre in London. It is about half-way between Waterloo Bridge and Charing Cross and on the same side. None of them is expensive.



EDMONTON cont.

of cats helped in one way or another, so please can you send something saleable for the shop which the local Council have kindly loaned to us for a few weeks, Jumble, Books, Clothing, etc., also unwanted Christmas gifts, jewellery and bric-a-brac; anything to help defray our expenses.

Our work was made much more difficult during the recent heavy falls of snow. It was a terrible task feeding the strays in local factory areas, but no doubt it was even worse for the poor cats. However, we did our very best to ensure that not one went hungry.

Recently, one Saturday afternoon, we received an urgent S.O.S. from one of our local Supermarkets, "would we please collect a tiny kitten found in a carrier bag in one of their wire trolleys?" The elderly woman shopper who discovered the kitten was very distressed when she collected the trolley from the entrance to the shop and found that what she thought was dirty brown paper contained a little tabby kitten. This good lady has a married daughter who has promised a good home to the kitten when it is old enough to leave the Shelter. At the moment it is being hand reared on Lactol. Mrs. Lowes, who found the kitten, has promised to save all her Pink Stamps from the Supermarket in future, perhaps you can guess why the little kitten is now called 'Sperry'!

Once again, we would like to thank all those kind Members who continue to give us their invaluable support, and a special "Thank You" to 'Anon' of Bow. Also, we thank Mr. Lissner for his help at the Shelter, doing repairs and odd jobs.

LEICESTER AND OAKHAM BRANCH:
Hon. Sec., Mr. S. W. Spencer, 11 Ullswater Street, Leicester.

At the time of writing we stand on the threshold of a New Year, the bitter taste of 1967's chaos still with us. However it has been an experience and we know what to avoid in the coming year and must tread very warily in the future. Our December committee meeting had to be called off at the last minute due to illness etc. and this has left us without any concrete figures to report on, but I do know that our Christmas Fair raised £60, our best yet and it did give us sound ideas for the next one; Our Raffle must have been up to its usual level plus donations received at Christmas from old friends at Frencham, Market Deeping, Monte Carlo, Tawsley, and anon, amounting to approx. £40. A quick tally up leads me to

believe that we have seen the year out financially sound in fact I shall be most surprised and disappointed if not.

I most heartily thank those friends mentioned above for their generosity to the Branch and was so pleased to receive a letter from Monte Carlo and learn of our friends active interest in animal welfare over there. Our struggle is going to be arduous and tedious but there is a great deal of faith in a lot of hearts and the gratifying factor that Mr. Steward is ever at hand with experience and knowledge gives us I am sure the will to carry on and regain the solidarity of a good working constitution. A pleasant New Year to all members and Branches.

LONDON COMMITTEE: Hon. Organiser,
Mrs. N. de Clifford, 12, The Close, New Malden, Surrey.*

Good news for the many kind friends of little Colette; she is now running about actively and it is a pleasure to see her. "Sterling" sends his thanks for a wonderful total in mixed small change in eleven different currencies, covering coins minted during the last hundred and fifty years. All coins are welcome for the little puss.

We have decided to take the plunge and again this year we shall have two big occasions in the Spring and Summer, an April Market on Saturday 27th, April in St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Philbeach Gardens, S.W.1. Doors open at 2 o'clock, and a June Fair in the Cathedral Hall. We want to have two very successful days, because the need for funds grows greater all the time, so we hope for good support from all our kind friends. Please send us something to sell and interest all your friends to help us in some way. We are glad of anything which can be spared. Our special requests lately have included a violin. Can anyone let us have a violin? We would be pleased to have a banjo, a mandolin or a guitar—indeed any musical instrument which could be got into a house, but a violin is specially wanted. Boxes of every kind are in demand. A member has asked for a christening mug—can anyone give us one? And we also are trying to get a sampler—any size, any date. The Rescue Centre is sheltering some lovely cats, and some rather sad ones too. Our newest arrival is Sparks, (so called because he flies upwards) he is very thin after living on his wits for some weeks, but a cheerful creature. Anyone who could send something for him would be helping a deserving cat. If everybody would send him 2/6, he could be provided for till he puts on weight again.

LONDON COMMITTEE cont.

Early in March Countess Grudzinska is holding a Bring-&Buy tea-party in her house, if you would like to attend, please write to her at 48 Home Park Road, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19, for an invitation card.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH: Hon. Sec.
Mrs. M. N. Davies, 435, Caledonian Road, London, N.7.

Miracles do happen, or so thinks our poor tortoiseshell stray which had wire tied around her middle. She has been fully restored to health and has gone to a very good home. She was an older cat and older cats are generally not wanted. When taken to be spayed, it was found that she had already been spayed, indicating that she had, at some time, been some-one's loved pet.

We would be very glad if all our good friends, who help us in so many ways, would take on an additional task and help us with home-finding. It distresses us that of the thousands of cats brought to us, only a very small percentage are sent out to homes. We are fussy that the homes should be good ones and that only spayed cats should go to them and we know that our friends would only recommend good homes. At present, we have, among helpers, only five who are dedicated to the task of home-finding and we are most grateful to them.

We have, at the moment, a magnificent long-haired off-white cat brought to us in neglected condition. In four weeks' time when she has been restored to health and spayed, she will be requiring a home.

With the drop in our intake in January and February, we are having a breathing space to prepare for the breeding season in March, April and May, when we shall be taking in about one hundred cats and kittens each week.

In our last report, we referred to three delightful pale grey kittens left on a factory doorstep. Alas! They have not fulfilled the promise of their early kittenhood. After recovering from two bouts of illness through the devoted nursing of Miss Neary, they have grown up to be plain, ordinary tabbies. Their sweet natures, however, make them worthy candidates for homes, which they urgently require.

Mrs. Dempsey, who has given us such loyal service for so many years, has had her usual spate of unreasonable requests from the public. A lady recently brought in a ten year old cat with a demand that it be found a home. She would not be told that no

one would give a home to a ten year old cat, nor that the cat, at that age, would not easily settle into a new environment.

Mrs. Dempsey has also received the usual demands to collect cats from Essex, South London, Kent and other far away places. It is explained to callers that we have a driver available for collections on four hours a week only and that those hours are more than used up in the North London area. The comments we receive, in reply, make us love cats more and humans less. Although we never refuse to take any cat into the Shelter, we cannot collect all the distressed cats of Southern England. A spare-time voluntary driver would be so useful. Any offers?

We have a Jumble sale on the 9th March in the Hall of the Holloway Baptist Church, N.7. (near the Royal Northern Hospital) Saleable goods and strong helpers would be very welcome!

Lastly, we thank V. G. Baker for the kind donation in memory of 'Timmie' and the Donor in W.14 for a generous donation in memory of 'Dot' and 'Tikki' Quite obviously Timmie, Dot and Tikki repaid all the love which they received.

SUSSEX BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. H. G. Perry, 35, Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Strays, strays, and more strays! Scarcely a day passes without a call from someone needing our help, its really heart-breaking, but in every case something has to be done to give shelter and food to these poor creatures.

Here are the stories of just two of them—A badly written letter on a scrappy bit of paper— "My neighbours have been evicted and left their cat behind. He sits all day outside the empty house crying to be let in. I give him food, but cannot take him in as my two cats fight him. Can you help?" He is now in our shelter waiting for a home, a lovely black cat, and very gentle.

One of our members called here one evening to say that a pretty little long haired ginger cat had been following her, and seemed lost. We told her that we must make sure it was a stray before we took it. The next morning was bitterly cold, and across the road the little cat was sitting shivering in the bitter wind. Some instinct must have told her where to come for help. As half an hour later when I was free to go out she was inside the gate, and run up to me crying pitifully. I picked her up and took her indoors, where I gave her warm milk and fish. She was just

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SUSSEX cont.

ravenous, all skin and bone, and obviously going to have kittens very soon. After examining everything in the room, as cats always do in a strange place, she curled up in a chair and slept. Later she had another meal and more warm milk, and then jumped up in my lap and purred with contentment.

Now—what to do with her? I had to keep her away from Simon—he is such a jealous cat. I decided to phone Mrs. Wilson our vet, and she came over from Bexhill after her evening surgery, and took the little cat back to her home. The next day the snow came, and how thankful I felt that she didn't have her kittens in the snow. They were born a few days later, but they were so sickly that they did not live.

The little mother is being well cared for, and when she is stronger she will be neutered and then we will find her a good home.

Many of our kind members sent us donations at Christmas for which we are most grateful. Among them was 10/- sent anonymously—we would like to say thank you.

ULSTER BRANCH: Hon. Sec. Miss E. R. McKee, 92a, Earlswood Road, Belfast, 4.

The shelter cats would (I'm sure) wish me to thank all their friends for the delicious fare supplied at Christmas. They dined luxuriously off chicken, pilchards and salmon (the latter bought with dollars sent by Lady Jane Grey of Canada). At bedtime Ginger shared the Carnation milk, sent by his adopted mum in London and this proved extremely popular with all the cats, even the ones who are not as a rule all that keen on ordinary milk. Now, alas, it's a case of "back to porridge".

Nice news this month—Mrs. Miller has taken over the running of the Shelter and is now installed in the Flat. We hope Mr. & Mrs. Miller are happy with us and that they will find the work both interesting and rewarding. It's up to us to ensure that they don't find it too exhausting. Our gratitude and warmest thanks to Miss Donaldson for her wonderful help in past months.

By the time you read these notes our first Jumble Sale for 1968 will have taken place. There will be many more so please save us all your Jumble and White Elephants—household equipment is as welcome as clothing and with Spring Cleaning in the offing there should be lots of things going begging. We also want masses of silver paper and bottle tops, and we can use odd scraps of ribbon and wool. We intend experimenting with the sale of waste paper so send us your old

magazines, etc. nicely tied up in parcels. Another idea, please save us gold Bond Stamps.

One member (in County Down) has offered to hold a small Coffee Party—we hope others will follow suit. Finally—how about a drive for new Members. Could every member find just ONE new member? Oh, and one thing more—we always want homes for our cats and kittens, especially the adult cats.

As you know collecting used Postage Stamps, British and Foreign, is one of our money raising projects. In this connection Mrs. Wilson has sent me the following notes. **Stamps.** Almost £100 has been added to the funds of the Branch in recent years by the sale of used stamps. Not a large sum, maybe, but well worth while, and it can be doubled in a short time by the continued help of new members and friends who collect for me. I hope to have more time now for sorting and selling stamps. The majority are sold by weight but there is a constant demand from collectors for Foreign Stamps, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.S.A. and France being the most popular Countries. I find that all stamps are of use provided they are NOT torn or very dirty and if possible, please leave them on the paper or corner of envelope. I have made many pen-friends as a result of collecting stamps for the C.P.L. and I greatly enjoy hearing from them. Last summer I had the pleasure of meeting one of these friends while she was in Ireland on holiday.

To all I would say, thank you very much—and I hope to receive many more parcels and packets. The address: Mrs. N. Wilson, 14 Quay Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim."

WALSALL BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss R. A. Nash, 25 Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, Staffs. Walsall 21630.*

BETTER A DOG'S life than a cat's life. A stray dog is usually taken to R.S.P.C.A. or P.D.S.A. kennels, with the chance of finding a new home. A stray cat attracts less attention. People assume that it can fend for itself on rats and mice.

In trying to be kind some people put down saucers of milk and scraps of food, then worry about the increasing number of stray cats in the neighbourhood.

When a family moved from an old cottage at Sedgley nearly three years ago they left behind a cat. The cat had kittens and now there are eight or nine cats roaming in the vicinity of Cotwall End-Road, where Mrs. Sheila Evans is trying to find a means of getting rid of them. Obviously she does

WALSALL cont.

not want them exterminated, but how does one catch nervous cats that scatter when anyone approaches and return only to find food?

She is calling for help from Miss Rosa Nash, of 25 Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, Secretary of the local branch of the Cats Protection League, who plans to round up cats on the Mid Cannock Colliery site.

Mr. J. Gandy, R.S.P.C.A. Inspector at Walsall, regrets that is usually impossible to find homes for cats that have been living wild. Ninety-five percent of them, he said, have to be destroyed. Even if they are rehabilitated they often become wild again.

"When you catch them they are worse than dogs" he said, having received scars and scratches in the line of duty.

R.S.P.C.A. officials find that much of their time is taken up collecting stray cats, mainly from derelict sites, where people moving to new homes have failed to make arrangements for them.

Should local authorities provide catteries for the strays? Inspector Gandy doubts if this would help. "You could spend £10,000 building a cattery and it would be full within a week" he said. Dogs are covered by The Stray Dogs' Act. Cats have no legal protection of this kind. When they are cast out their chance of survival is small.

"It's a fallacy to think they can look after themselves" said Inspector Gandy. "They may die from flu or enteritis. They cannot live properly off vermin. Their existence is shocking".

He advises people plagued by stray cats to lure them into confined buildings and then call the R.S.P.C.A. But if they are wild its [practically impossible to find homes for them. Most people want contented pussies on the hearth, not frightened creatures to tame. *Express & Star Jan. 26th 1968.*

WEST CORNWALL BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. K. Beesley, "Cathlowena," Cusgarne, St. Day, Redruth. Phone number St. Day 586.

It seems we have achieved the impossible. Shabby old barns now gleam with white snowcem, windows have been knocked out and rebuilt, roofs repainted, interiors have been rendered cat and draughtproof and painted in gay colours, and within a few weeks everything should be ready to instal the lucky cats. The goodwill which has gone into this enormous task has been almost

miraculous. A few 'appy 'arries shook their heads and declared "You'll never do a thing with it, look at the roof, that'll cost a pretty penny . . . and the woodwork . . . rotten—full of it . . . and what will you do about the plumbing . . ." and so on . . . but we have proven them wrong thanks to the marvellous response to our appeals in THE CAT. This money has enabled us to employ two men and a boy and between them they have worked hard and long, even weekends and given us more than value for money, their spirit and cheerfulness has encouraged others to help and friends have rallied round at weekends working for nowt but a cup of tea, and their love of cats. One kind soul has done all the electric wiring, and another has coped with most of the plumbing, another has been steadily dismantling catteries for the precious materials which is being used again. More friends tackle the lifting and lugging and our transport problem was solved by a dear cat lover who lent us his landrover, this alone has saved pounds. How can we thank you all.

Every post has brought forth letters full of encouragement as well as donations, some anonymous. We have had some harassed comments on our erratic changes of address during the last few months, and I am truly sorry about this and will attempt to make a brief explanation. Cathlowena is in the parish of Cusgarne and was purchased as Cusgarne. We had printing executed, and distributed a thousand leaflets as well as publishing the address in THE CAT, and it was only when we found all our mail was going haywire that we discovered our postal address is St. Day, Redruth. St Day I believe is three miles away from Cusgarne, so unprepared visitors will get hopelessly lost. Since living in Cornwall we find it easier to become pixilated than to attempt to solve the whys and wherefors, so St. Day it is . . . but the catteries are in Cusgarne . . .

Whilst all this building and excitement has been in progress, Mrs. Maskell has been working with great enthusiasm on yet another jumble sale which has realised nearly £50. This has given funds a terrific boost and we are heartily grateful to Mrs. M. and all her willing helpers.

We were a bit disappointed at the small numbers of readers who have entered into our competition on guessing the meaning of Cathlowena, and no one has hit on the right answer yet. Don't you think you could all be very daring and have another go, make them as outrageous as you like and I will offer a fine prize for the most hilarious even

(continued on next page)

WEST CORNWALL cont.

if you can't guess the correct name . . . we might use some of the names on cattery buildings, ideas are always useful and we need the two shillings. Send a S.A.E. for a reply and one of our leaflets if you wish.

Now a word about the cats. Queen Amber sends salutations and thanks to the warm

hearted faithful admirers who regularly send O.A.P.'s for their special luxuries. Amber has become quite kittenish, and receives her visitors on an enormous Victorian half tester bed. Tiggy puss has found the top of the Aga and declares he is "adopted" so that's that . . . The rest of the large feline family are very well and are steadily going to new kind homes. Next notes should describe "operation settling in".

BRANCH and GROUP DIRECTORY

BOURNEMOUTH GROUP: Hon. Sec., Miss A. Sydenham, 59 King's Road, Bournemouth. Phone 50165.*

CANTERBURY CAT SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., Miss M. W. Paine, 37 Beverley Road, Canterbury, Kent.

COVENTRY BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. C. Bloomfield, 32 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

DUBLIN BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. S. Connolly, 11 Leicester Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin.

GLOSSOP & DISTRICT GROUP: Hon. Sec., Miss M. Wilson, Cowbrook, Glossop, Derbyshire.

GREAT AMWELL & DISTRICT GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Jones, 376 Ware Road, Hailey, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT: Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. Kent, Cheviot Cottage, St. Lawrence, I.O.W.

MANCHESTER BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mr. C. Cadley, 89 Northen Grove, West Didsbury, Manchester.

NEWBURY AND DISTRICT BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw, "Heather-pine", Curridge, Nr. Newbury, Berks.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss B. M. L. Sayce, "Dungarvan", 79 Portswood Road, Southampton. Phone 57212.*

Where names and addresses only are given Branch—Group news had not been received at time of going to press.—Editor.

ODE TO GYPSY

My little cat, so snowy white,
Your eyes are "topaz" in the light.
But in the fire's pleasant glow
Are viewing with the "peridot".
With shining little "agate" nose,
And "rubies" pale for tender toes,
And ears, wherein the "tourmalin"
Is hidden by the hairy screen.
Your tail is like a plume of "pearls",
So soft and glossy when it furles.
Some jewel in your heart you bear,
Although I cannot see it there,
I know that it is set in gold
And full of love and trust untold
Which will be with me till the end,
My little faithful jewell'd friend.

LADY BRODIE HAIG, Jersey.

SUMMER SLEEPING WITH MY CAT

Puss softly purring,
Leaves scarcely stirring,
Light slowly fading,
Cool air invading,
Bees ceasing humming,
Sleep sweetly coming
To us—me and Puss.

C. E. A. TURNER.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

I have one of your leaflets which asks for unwanted Birthday and Christmas presents; also used stamps. Enclosed please find one or two oddments for sale at your Bazaars.

I do have a few pieces of blanket, but unfortunately the cost of postage prevents sending these as I am a pensioner, but an animal lover.



MEMBERS CORNER

It always gives me a warm and happy feeling whenever I can send some cancelled stamps, no matter how small the amount, for I feel it will bring comforting help to a tiny kitten or a poor homeless stray. And I hope these stamps will aid in bringing that help.

The wonderful aid you are doing heartens me greatly for my family and I have always adored all animals, especially cats and have always owned them. Our present cat is a big red tiger striped who is a joy to behold. I only wish every cat had a loving home to call his own but the League is taking that place for those who are homeless and doing a marvellous job. My best wishes always for your continued success. Miss Marie Leaverton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

I was most interested to read of "Pasha's Prowess" on page 14 of the January issue of THE CAT.

As a member of the British Society of Dowsers I would say that it does not matter how long the interval between the loss and the search in this kind of finding.

The faculty used is more akin to the homing instinct than to working from smell.

The best of luck to "Pasha" and his owner and may they find many live creatures in time to save their lives. Dorothy M. McIntyre.

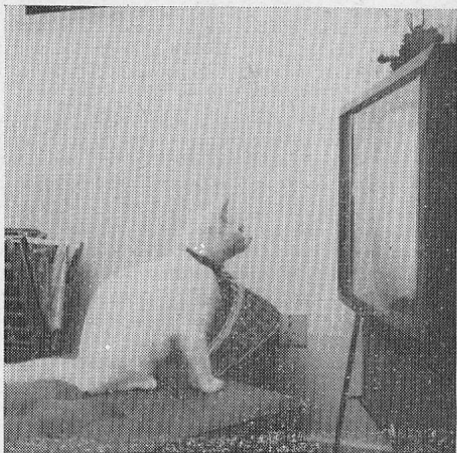
X Would any lady care to share a comfortable home with another and two cats? Elderly widow lady desirous of companionship and cat fellowship would be welcomed in Streatham, S.W.16 London on very reasonable terms. Please address enquiries to Secretary C.P.L. Please send any answers to me and we will certainly be pleased to forward any expenses that may be incurred.

Mrs. L. Peters.

I thought some of your readers might be interested to hear how I manage to keep a cat as a household pet, although I am out all day, five days a week, and live alone. Bustopher was six to eight weeks old when he was given to me. I did not really want him, for he is a ginger tom, and I did not care very much for ginger cats. However, I decided to give him a trial, for he was due to be "put down" if I did not have him. At the very beginning I made up my mind he would have to make his headquarters in the garage, which is big and airy, for I did not want him shut up in the house all day long. Neither could I leave him to roam the neighbourhood, for he was only a kitten. That first evening I had him in the house and made friends. When bedtime came I took him to the garage with a saucerful of milk and made him comfortable for the night. I had provided a sanitary tray and a basket for him to sleep in lined with an old piece of blanket. Next morning I gave him a good breakfast and kept him shut in. I had arranged with a friend of mine to give him a midday meal for I felt a tiny kitten ought not to go all day without food. In the evening when I arrived home, I fed him again, and then brought him up to the house for the evening, but each night he slept in the garage, for I wanted him to become thoroughly accustomed to doing so. At weekends I allowed him more freedom. He became acquainted with the garden under my watchful eye. Later on my friend also used to let him out at midday for a while, when she could spare the time to stay with him. Eventually we felt we could safely let him stay out the whole afternoon unattended. I had encouraged him to leave and enter the garage by the window, so, after his meal my friend would open it and then he was free to come and go as he pleased all the afternoon. In due course I left the window open all day long only shutting him in at night. I suppose by this time two or three months had elapsed and now Buster knew his home and those who fed him.

When the really cold weather arrived I let him sleep in the house, but during the day he spent most of his time sleeping cosily in the garage. Today, at three years old, he is a fine big cat. I can go away when I wish, for he presents no problem at all. I have only to arrange for a neighbour to put his food in the garage at the appropriate time. Indeed, I am told he is usually there at meal-times waiting for it. I have come to like ginger cats now. I wouldn't part with mine for "all the tea in China". He is so responsive and companionable and the love and affection he shows his master has to be seen to be believed. MAURICE PRATER EVANS.

MEMBERS CORNER



I think it is time I sent you another progress report on Jennie (the white kitten we had from the H.Q. Clinic in October). As soon as I produced the writing pad she decided she must see what was going on and is sitting on the table watching the pen. She is a most intelligent little cat and is developing a character of her own quite different from any of the others!

She still isn't very white and she doesn't particularly like the others to wash her, she thinks they are playing and starts to wrestle! She was spayed on the 11th November and the operation did not seem to incapacitate her at all. She was sitting up in her basket when she was collected from the vet and immediately demanded to be let out. My other cats were drowsy and couldn't walk properly for several hours after spaying, but not Jennie. She had a bandage round her middle which annoyed her and she did her best to remove it but it stayed in place until the next day when we were told we could remove it. The vet said no food until the next day also, but Jennie had other ideas and wanted to "help" the other cats to eat their tea. She spurred milk until she realized she wasn't getting anything else, but made up the next day by leading the queue at breakfast time and trying to eat all six bowlfuls of food!

Until she was spayed she went outside very little. There is an unneutered tom cat who lurks around our garden and leaves his "visiting card" everywhere, including the back door. We were afraid he might attack Jennie, so we kept her indoors unless we

could go out with her. She has quickly found her way round the outside of the house, the garden and neighbour's gardens but she never stays out long—she likes to keep coming in to see that we are there and going out again. The cat door was no problem to her and when she first mastered it she was like a child with a new toy in and out, and in out until she was too tired to do it any more.

My husband has just finished building a colour television set. All the cats like to "help" sometimes, but Jennie is there all the time. The wires fascinate her and she loves to dive into a box of pieces of wire and dash off with a piece in her mouth. I find them all over the house. The picture on the screen holds her attention for quite a long time and she reaches up to touch moving objects. She seemed to recognize a bird on the picture one day and dashed round the back of the set to see where it had gone!

She sits and chatters at the birds in the garden and has climbed into the bird-house several times. She caught a blue-tit one day, and was very cross when I took it from her. I think it couldn't fly so didn't stand a chance she is so quick.

I could go on and on about Jennie, she gives us so much pleasure, but I am sure you must get tired of cat lovers raving about their pets!

IRENE MATLEY.

Many thanks for the beautiful Christmas card, and calendar, which was sent to our dear Tiger cat.

I would like you to know he is now 22 years old and is very well and healthy, and not a bird killer, as we have trained him not to hurt the birds. I think he is very wonderful.

We did live at Enfield Middlesex until 1965, and then while waiting for our Residence to be completed, had to find other accommodation for 6 months in which time he was boarded at Mrs. Walledge, Edmonton, London. As soon as we were settled here, we brought him here, and he settled down very happily.

I think it is quite a story what do you think? Mrs. Eva Brown.

I visited an animal shelter recently on Vancouver Island, the Good Shepherd run by an elderly nun, Mother Cecelia, Mary and about six other nuns. It is on a large estate beside the highway and seems to be very well administered. There were several goats, three horses, one hundred and ten dogs and ninety cats there—all that I saw were well, happy and had large, airy runs—in fact most of the cats roamed freely. Gertrude E. Bennett.

ON BEHALF OF CAT CHARACTER

By FRIEDA LE PLA

"Cats are self-centred and incapable of sympathy with others, whether humans or animals."

As most cat lovers know all too well, this is a common slur on cat character levelled at them by those who have little knowledge of these members of the feline race. So we can do real service to them by acquainting ourselves with, and storing up, all authentic instances to the contrary. For this reason (and also other reasons) I would like to introduce to those readers of this magazine who may not already know it, a remarkable and entrancingly interesting book by Georges Westabeau under title "Little Tyke" (obtainable from Mr. A. H. Harland, Circulation Department, Stanborough Press, Watford, Herts, at 10/6d. plus postage.) Its heroine is a lioness even more remarkable than the famous Elsa, in Joy Adamson's "Born Free," and therefore the book deserves to be as widely known. For this lioness was that almost unknown phenomenon, a confirmed vegetarian by her own choice—and a lover of cats, too! Both these facts should be of special interest and significance to cat-lovers as will be seen by all who read the book.

Experts have declared positively that it is quite impossible for a carnivorous animal to exist in health and strength without a meat diet, and that a dog is the best and right companion with whom to bring up a lion-cub, a cat being quite unsuitable "because there is a natural antagonism between cat and lion." The lioness heroine of "Little Tyke" strongly disagreed on both points. Although there were a great number of other animals on Hidden Valley ranch, Washington (to which she was brought as a rescued cub), and she was a friend to them all (including a lamb and some day-old chickens), it was not a dog she chose to be her special pal, it was a cat—first Pinky (so-called because of the strange colour of his fur) a three-months-old kitten who was her devoted friend during her cub-life; and then later, after Pinky was stolen, a cat named Imp. I would especially commend to cat-lovers the story of Pinky's devotion to the newly-rescued cub during the latter's illness when badly-burnt paws and chest made her sometimes cry with the pain. Pinky hardly ever left her, and when he did go out for a little, her first cry for him would bring him back in a flash to stay beside her, soothing her by licking and a lullaby purr.

The book is full of charming photos of this lioness with her various friends, including a

concluded at foot of next column



My name is "BICHO" and I am eight months old. I am sending all my love to you and to all English cats. Here is my photo. I am already wearing one of the elastic collars you have sent to me. Thank you for everything.

When I was 15 days old someone found me abandoned on the street. Then my mistress brought me and now all I can do is purring very much to show how happy I am. So, my love and gratitude are also for you for protecting my English friends. You know: in England, Portugal and everywhere all we need is love! Bicho—Lisbon.

lamb and a small chicken; and one of the most delightful shows her with her second cat friend, Imp, who was a rescued stray.

I refrain from further details of "Little Tyke's" fascinating story, as I am hoping that the foregoing will prompt readers to buy the book themselves, and use it in the service of the cat tribe, especially our domestic cats against whom there are so often accusations of entire self-centredness. The book is well worth possessing, and is one of my greatest treasures, much used. It is quite important to an understanding of feline character, and a real appreciation of that character.

Footnote—To any readers with blind friends I add that this book is obtainable in Braille from the National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London.

SHOP WINDOW

Astrological analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr. Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

Graphology (Character from handwriting), letter with signature, stamped addressed envelope and donation for my C.P.L. collecting box to Miss E. M. Jackson, 11, Clarence Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Buy your hand knitted dishcloths from Mrs. Peggie Ilves, 38, High Street, Oakham, Rutland. Price 1.9 including postage.

A **Toy Mouse** will provide fun and exercise for your cat or kitten. Send 2/6 to Secretary, Cat's Protection League and Tailwavers, 29 Church Street, Slough.

Aprons to order in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 38, High Street, Oakham, Rutland.

Perspex Name Brooches in various colour 1/6d. each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E to Miss P. E. George, Gilfach, Whitton Knighton, Radnorshire.

Dolls, specially old ones, bits and clothes for dolls are wanted by The Doll Club, 21, Holland Park, London, W.11.

Water Colour Portraits of Pets from a clear snapshot, 10/6 each. Snaps of pets or children Enlarged and Coloured from own negatives, £1. Please give description. Cheques should be made payable to C.P.L.—Dorothy Hall, Plemont, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

Old Postally Used Picture Postcards, dated before 1920, of Britain or overseas wanted by the Revd. A. W. R. Hughes, The Vicarage, Coalbrookdale, Shrops. 5/- for every 100 received to the C.P.L. Sender's postage refunded.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

Three only: Signed copies of Olivia Manning's latest book

EXTRAORDINARY CATS

Best offer above publishing from 21/-, to General Secretary, C.P.L., 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

ALWAYS WANTED

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable for our Bazaars.

Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers and odd pieces of string (about 18 inches long), for use in the Clinic.

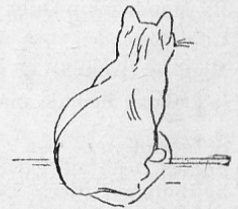
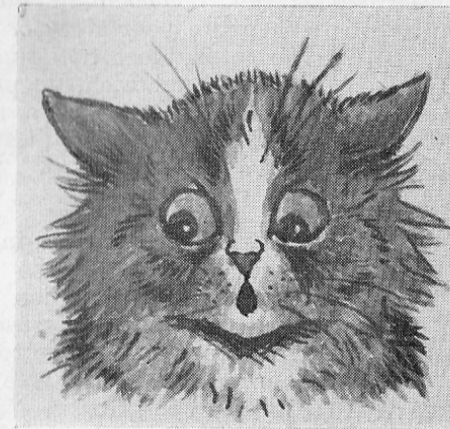
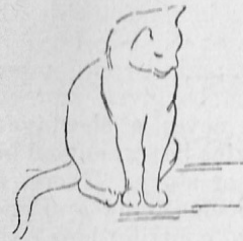
News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.

THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
CATS AND THEIR WEL-
FARE



A CAT'S A CAT FOR A' THAT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1968