

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

Two only:

MAUNDY MONEY

(in cases)

1897 and 1908. Best offer received by April 30th, will be accepted for one or both. General Secretary, 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.

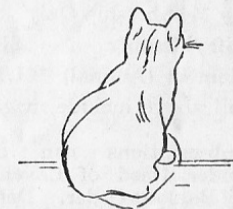
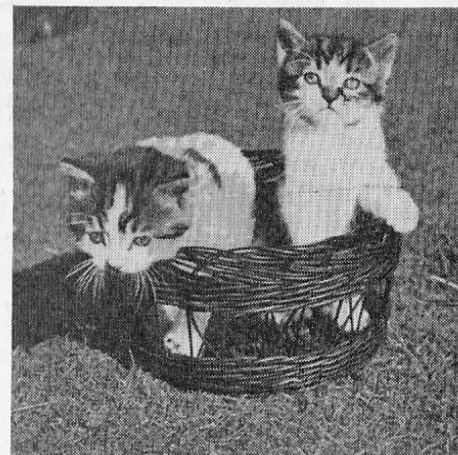
News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

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

APRIL 1968

THE CAT

VOL. XLII

No. 3

Official Organ of the Cats' Protection League and Tail-wavers - Founded 1927 - Registered National Charity. Prestbury Lodge, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks, England. Telephone Slough 20173

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There are no commercial advertisements.

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 May 68

TEMPUS FUGIT: The pace of the "march of time" to which we referred in the editorial of last month has quickened, bringing into focus the Annual General Meeting and the need to start preparations for Cat Week 1968. However, first things first, so the A.G.M. will occupy our thoughts in Round and About.

BRANCH AND GROUP NEWS: We have commented on this subject on a number of occasions, but in view of enquiries it is perhaps advisable to make a periodic statement.

The columns of The Cat are at the disposal of Branches and Groups for the purpose of reporting their (local) activities and giving details of their sales etc., etc., and the subsequent results of their fund-raising events. We have to limit the space we can allocate to Branches and we have to set a deadline for their "copy". We endeavour to include all reports even though some of them are late, but sometimes they are too late and sometimes we do not receive reports from some of our Branches so naturally we cannot include them.

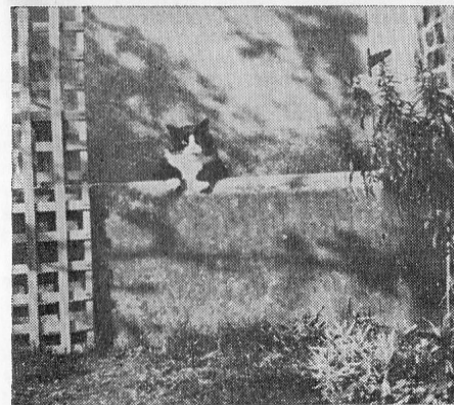
In our revised set up, Branch and Group News and Directory, we have tried to ensure that the arrangements that we have made are understood and that any information our readers may require, in connection with Branch and Group representatives, is available. We do slip up occasionally, as we did last month in inadvertently omitting such details as should have been added to the Chelmsford Branch Report.

THE ECONOMY DRIVE: Members' reaction to our proposals regarding invitations to our A.G.M. and distribution of Annual Reports indicate a favourable impression and we are encouraged to consider further means of creating "savings" which we hope will have your approval. These will be put forward in due course.

A.G.M. JULY 6th, 1968, KENT ROOM,
CAXTON HALL, LONDON, W.1.

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.

Annual General Meeting:

As mentioned elsewhere the meeting will be held on Saturday, July 6th, in the Kent Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Victoria, S.W.1., at 2.30 p.m.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THOSE OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR APPEAL TO SAY YES OR NO IN REGARD TO "INVITATIONS" AND, OR "ANNUAL REPORTS". WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM ALL WHO ARE ENTITLED TO AN INVITATION AND A REPORT.

The business of the meeting will be mainly the future of the League and its governing body for the next three years. The success of the present committee, as a working body, which were re-elected en bloc on the previous occasion, has been made manifest on more than one occasion at Executive Committee meetings. It is at this level that agreements have been reached and decisions made that have given such satisfactory results. What more can one ask or expect.

Constitutional adjustments will be proposed about which we will probably comment in this column later on.

London Cats and The Late Mr. J. L. Milton:

Members who have visited the Animals Fair or supported the London Committee bazaars will almost certainly have met Mr. Milton. He was a keen supporter of the League's work in general and the London

Committee in particular. His outstanding achievement on behalf of the League was the feeding arrangements for stray and homeless cats on a number of sites including one near the Tate Gallery, a spot at which he was photographed some years ago in the act of feeding his protegés. Nothing was too much trouble where homeless cats were concerned and despite poor health and being not by any means a young man he never neglected what he considered his duty. John Leslie Milton passed away after a severe heart attack on the 7th February, 1968, and his passing on opened up a much wider gap in "local" cat welfare than could have been anticipated by his very modest assessment of his voluntary work in this field. Fortunately we were able to close the gap with the minimum delay thanks to the co-operation of cat lovers who were his colleagues in the cause and other volunteers who so very kindly stepped into the breach.

We at Headquarters continued to supply food, making arrangements for it to be available to the people who took over the job of feeding the cats. We have promised Mrs. Milton that the cats to which her husband was devoted would not be neglected. We have kept our promise.

The good that people do is so often not revealed until they are no longer with us and the opportunity of expressing appreciation has been lost. The least we can do in this particular case is to continue what our late friend started and to establish a suitable memorial. We feel sure this could be best achieved by erecting a memorial cat house, to be devoted solely for the purpose of rescuing and re-habilitating some of the London cats. In view of his association with the London Committee and the South London Rescue Centre it would seem that the best site for this memorial would be at 10, The Close. The matter will be put in hand with the least delay and any of Mr. Milton's friends and admirers who wish to be associated with this memorial should contact me at Headquarters.

Chelmsford:

By accident in the first place and then an oversight we omitted to add "name and address" to the Chelmsford Branch report, which appeared in last month's magazine. We regret this slip up and apologise for any inconvenience we may have caused the Branch and our readers.

Birmingham:

We welcome the formation of the Branch of the C.P.L. in this great industrial city. We do not expect to work even a minor miracle but we have the distinct advantage of starting off on the right foot and with both

feet on the ground. The majority of the Officers of the Committee are experienced, having been engaged locally in cat rescue and animal welfare activities before applying for admittance to the C.P.L. organisation. It could well be that this new Branch will, in time, link up or be able to co-operate with the Walsall Branch which has functioned so admirably for so long under the control of Miss Rosa Nash, who is the king pin. We shall look forward to hearing about the Branch's activities in the not too distant future.

Derby:

For some time there has been a hope that something would materialise in this direction especially as there has been a Derby representative of the Nottingham Branch. It seems now that another dream is about to come true and we anticipate additions to our Branch and Group reports from this direction.

Headquarters:

Somewhat belatedly we record and introduce Mr. and Mrs. A. Parratt, who have joined our Executive Committee. Apart from this "service", each have contributed something extra. Mr. Parratt offered his assistance as Honorary Treasurer and Mrs. Parratt stands in as a voluntary driver for our ambulance in emergencies. We are extremely grateful to them both. It will interest our readers to know that it is to Mrs. Noble, the ex-Committee member who now lives in Bournemouth, that we owe the introduction of Mrs. Parratt to the Executive Committee. Mr. Parratt followed in her footsteps a month or so afterwards.

About Branches Generally:

We have written on other occasions on the flow and ebb of Branches. They come and they go and the reasons for their disappearance are generally definable and understandable to those on the inside but perhaps not so understandable to our members.

A great deal depends upon "who does what" because when the "who" is no longer available it is invariably a question of "what" happens now. In Dover and Liverpool we have typical examples. The king pin has gone and the structure is weakening, probably to the point of collapse and the good work comes to an end. This may be only a temporary stagnation but more often than not it is otherwise.

Branch Secretaries need to be dedicated to the "cause" apart from having the time, ability and general know how, especially if he or she is unfortunate in having little or no practical aid from the Committee. If

the Committee are equally as dedicated and can and will share the responsibility then it is altogether another matter. We find that when a Branch is dependent on the efforts of one or two people and conditions or circumstances are such that little or no support is forthcoming and there is no real possibility of someone else "taking over", the break-down occurs.

This has happened in the distant past and quite recently. No doubt it will happen again and things being what they are we cannot do a great deal to prevent it. However, we have an alternative in our H.Q. Voucher Scheme and Service, which automatically comes into operation if or when a Branch or Group fades out.

This scheme, known also as the C.P.L. Tailwaver and Chads Club Service, was instituted to cover districts where there was no C.P.L. Branch or Group, or representative, and as such naturally fills the bill in contingencies.

Although Branches and Groups may close down we do not despair of "something turning up" to normalise things. Whatever funds are in hand when local activities are suspended are either frozen in the Branch Bank or if handed over to H.Q. are transferred to a holding account which is maintained for that purpose.

So much then for what "has been". The saying, "when one door shuts another opens", has been proved true and whilst we are a little in doubt about Dover and Liverpool continuing we now add Birmingham to our list of Branches and expect Derby either to follow suit or co-operate with the Nottingham Branch. Obviously "nil desperandum" has to be our motto. With the knowledge that the C.P.L. voucher scheme is always in operation we can confound the pessimists and prove that the C.P.L. marches on despite set backs.

The C.P.L. Voucher Schemes:

Members will no doubt know that most of our Branches operate the voucher scheme within their district for which they are financially responsible.

The scheme that operates from H.Q. and to which we have already referred is all-embracing and includes neutering, speying and treatment as well as emergency boarding and providing food for strays in approved circumstances.

Cat Rescue:

Cats are notorious as tree climbers and not infrequently they find themselves "out on a limb" in very uncomfortable positions and, more often than not, they have to be "rescued".

ROUND AND ABOUT

CAT RESCUE—contd.

In the past the first in line for "operation rescue" was the local fire brigade and many an arduous and danger entailed request was voluntarily fulfilled. However, owing to an incident in which a fireman lost his life, (this happened some years ago in the Midlands), the services of fire brigades personnel are only now available, at the discretion of the Officer in Charge.

In the circumstances it is not surprising that requests from cat owners whose cat or kitten is "up a tree" are referred, by the local fire brigade Officer in Charge, to local animal welfare societies and naturally the distressed owner expects something to be done about it. In all rescue operations whether human or animals are involved there are two important essentials, staff or equipment (or both) and to a great extent the know-how.

Some animal welfare societies have both staff and rescue equipment, others have one or the other some have neither. The C.P.L. is one of the organisations that just does not have staff that can be allocated to rescue work. It does not have the male personnel to deal with these emergencies, so we have to rely on whatever help can be obtained from outside sources, including builders or people who erect television aerials or anyone else who has the men and the tools to do the job. Our share in these rescues is "footing the bill". We are fortunate in having builders who are extremely co-operative and indeed have undertaken a number of rescues for us, one as recent as Christmas Day. We have also had the co-operation of other people whose name and occupations we feel it unwise to divulge, but it is not always easy to obtain the necessary co-operation at any given moment. I am not forgetting the local R.S.P.C.A. Inspectors who over the years at different times (and different Inspectors of course) have either co-operated with us or have effected rescues themselves. On more than one occasion we have met at the scene of the "rescue".

The reason for this somewhat lengthy explanation is that it has been found that some cat owners or for that matter people who have contacted the C.P.L. Headquarters in connection with cats up trees, on roofs, etc., have not been as understanding of the position as could have been wished and tend to expect the impossible and are often belligerent or rude when the situation is being explained. One such "gentleman" telephoned me recently about 8 o'clock one evening saying

that he had a cat up a tree and had been told by the local fire brigade official to get in touch with us. When the circumstances were explained, the query raised was "are you going to let the cat stay up there and starve?" and before the alternatives of effecting a rescue could be given the receiver was slammed down. One is surprised that so many people whose views and speech indicate education and/or breeding can be so intolerant and lacking in common courtesy.

I feel that I am entitled to a hearing on these matters because during the early years of my work here at Headquarters, I have been involved in at least 20 rescues, the majority of which were either single-handed or with one of the C.P.L.'s staff. I know exactly what is involved in rescue work whether the cat be up a tree, on a roof, in a hole or in some almost inaccessible position. I have been scratched and bitten and I have on one occasion brought a kitten down from the top of a water tower holding it with my teeth, having to descend a straight up ladder in a half gale. None of these rescues have ever been mentioned before and I do so now only because of the incident to which I have referred and because I think the situation with regard to "rescue" should be more widely known than it is.

All This and Arthur Too:

By now the mystery, intrigue, diplomatic involvement and the sensationalism that has surrounded and almost submerged Arthur during the past few weeks will have faded away or at least we sincerely hope so.

In other words the heat is off and all that remains to be said and done is in the hands of the legal dignitaries. What do we at H.Q. think of it all? First and foremost we are not greatly enamoured of any animals that perform in any way except under natural conditions and without enticement. In this day and age and with all the technical knowledge at the disposal of commercial artists and advertisers there is no need to make an animal an exhibitionist.

It will be argued, and rightly so, that some animals including cats, are natural performers and give their owners a great deal of pleasure and fun. There it should rest. Cats that dip their paws into tins or any other receptacle which holds something that attracts them are not in the least uncommon. Indeed one of the house cats at H.Q. always fishes for the skin of the milk that adheres to the side of my beaker. In fact he rivals Arthur in his attitude and delicacy of "extraction". We

have had cats that have helped themselves to raisins from the packet, to cereals from the packet, to fish from the saucepan and to milk from the jug. The other house cat is by far from the greatest clown we have ever had and I am sure that there are hundreds of cat owners who can claim intelligent performances by their cats, past or present. What then, is there so special about Arthur's demonstrations. Was it not only that he had a "price on his head", that created the sensation.

We at H.Q. were bombarded with news cuttings, entreated to "do something", written to and written at and even abused over the telephone by someone who considered the young lady who could not answer her question was stupid. All in all we have had a hectic time. We believe in getting our facts straight before we attempt to give an opinion and we do have many years of experience in connection with cats and their welfare to guide us against making a hasty decision or implicating the League in a wordy warfare that can do little or no good. As for Arthur's teeth I can think of a number of ways in which these could have been "lost", (if they are lost), but intentional extractions for an ulterior motive, is certainly not one of them.

Books:

Raining Cats and Donkeys by Doreen Tovey, Michael Joseph Ltd., 25s.

The name Doreen Tovey and good reading matter are inseparable. Having read *Cats in the Belfry* and *Cats in May*, I had no doubts about her latest, *Raining Cats and Donkeys*. To those who are not interested in anything except cats it will not have the same fanatical appeal as the two books mentioned. All the same, the old partnership Soloman and Sheba, aided and abetted by Butch the wanderer, the ginger stray and "others" combined, with Annabel the Donkey to create situations that could only arise in the Tovey domain. Everything happens to them and their pets contrive to make it happen, in a most enjoyable manner, that is as far as the reader is concerned. Don't miss another opportunity to lose your own cares in the narrating of those of the Toveys.

The Cat Book (a golden pleasure book) by Kathleen V. Daly, illustrated by Gig Goode-nov; Paul Hamlyn; 6s. 6d.

The picture book of great attractions mainly in colour, that will delight the younger folk, for whom it is intended, and must surely appeal to cat lovers who are not so young. The simple well chosen words mainly in verse are expressive and applicable. A gem amongst cat books.



The Helping Hand:

Following last month's comments on this matter we give the first of the small organisations with which we have corresponded and which we feel are worthy of your consideration and especially if they are in your district. We would like to say that the C.P.L. is not actively connected with any of the organisations mentioned under this caption, nor are we responsible for them. Our contacts with them have been friendly and from what we know of them we feel justified in bringing their work to your notice. (1) Animal Life Brigade; Founder and Honorary Secretary, Mrs. E. B. Owen, 22 Applesham Avenue, Hove 4, Sussex. (2) Ipswich and District Animal Centre, (founded 1925); Honorary Secretary, Mrs. A. M. Goffin, 410 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. (3) Chalklands, Miss Ann Good, "Chalklands", Tattingstone, Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk. A two-woman organisation devoted to animal welfare, situated in a district where the need is great. Not connected with any A.W. Society and using their own slender resources to maintain their "service" to local animal owners.

Urgently Wanted:

Cat lovers who will volunteer to help with the feeding of homeless cats on various sites in London, as and when required. Names and addresses and telephone numbers to:—The General Secretary, The Cats' Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

NOTE: We have taken so much space this month that items we intended to include, under *This and That*, have to be omitted.

Albert Steward



CATS ON STAMPS—4 by Philaticus

So far in this series, we have had stamps featuring cats from Poland, Albania and Yemen. We are, on this occasion, returning to Eastern Europe which seems, in many ways, to be the most fruitful area for such stamps. The country is this time Roumania, to whom we owe a vast number of fascinating and interesting stamps, particularly in recent years. These have included several sets featuring animals and birds, of which the present is a good example. The set was issued in 1965 and is devoted to domestic cats. There are eight stamps in the set, each one of which is attractive in its own way. The highest value in the set shows the heads

of three cats, the expressions of which are well contrasted. We have then a cat with two kittens in a basket; a very beautiful and intelligent-looking Siamese cat, a kitten playing typically with a ball of wool; two white Persians, looking full of mischief; a tabby cat, obviously fully concentrating on something; two charming kittens playing with a boot; and finally a ginger tomcat. If it is a matter of having to name a favourite my choice would fall upon the Siamese cat!

We have by no means yet come to the end of stamps featuring cats and shall next time, be considering some individual stamps, rather than sets, featuring cats.

I have much pleasure in sending you a cheque for £15 8s. 14s. 7d. has been made from sale of stamps and 14s. 5d. from our collecting box. This brings our total from stamps to £900 7s.

Audrey Cozens, Sheba and Casey Jones.

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 GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. J. Middlemiss, 335, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

The weeks after Christmas always seem to be a period of reduced activity and ours are no exception. A Rummage Sale was not a great success, due to the advertisement being inserted in the "Animal" column, instead of "Forthcoming Events"..... "Rummage Seekers" are not always "animal minded!" However, nearly £14 was forthcoming. A gift of £5 from good friends near Chelmsford was much appreciated, also an interesting letter and stamps from the Seychelles Islands. Plans are afoot for a Coffee Evening, a stall in the Shire Hall Foyer one Saturday morning and the Easter Fair in the same location; this being in the centre of things and charges reasonable. Goods for these would be welcomed, fancy goods, jewellery, books, "good-as-new", clothes, preserves, sweets, etc. We are now collecting tinfoil of all types and, of course, stamps. And could we please "collect" volunteers with cars who come in to Chelmsford before 2.00 p.m. who would transport a cat from their area to the "Vet" in Queen Street (off London Road), and better still, return it when they return home between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. also? This way the job is done with little extra cost to anyone. A piece of plastic sheeting and some paper under the box or basket is all that is necessary—just in case of accidents!"

If we have been less active in fund raising, the cats themselves have kept us busy. A warm spell has given them—like the birds ideas! Several young females have been saved from trouble just in time and new "tom" owners are ringing up.... "We think he'd better be done". Would that many, many more people had the same idea! Some of the biggest offenders are among the farming community, who allow their cat population to inter-breed, with horrible results, at times. How about a "drive" in this direction?

*(Their "toms" are often a real menace to folk living near with females and neutered toms. This is quite unnecessary, as it will be years before kittens are in such short supply that new blood cannot be found for farm pest control. And, as the Walsall

R.S.P.C.A. Inspector says, cats cannot exist on vermin alone, as many misguided people think. They should be handleable too, in case of the need to nurse or treat them for illness or injury. One of the best hunters at the Cattery is their pedigree siamese!).

21 cats and kittens have been placed in homes in February, including 3 of our "trapped cats" for which we appealed last month. Illness has delayed further trapping but it will be resumed in early March, before kittens appear again.

EDMONTON GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Walledge, 39 Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

Members will be pleased to know that our shop at Wood Green is a great success, but we are running low on saleable goods. Please send us any unwanted items that you can spare, clothing, shoes, books, etc. in fact anything saleable will be greatly appreciated. We must take this opportunity to thank our band of helpers, who have generously given of their spare time to staff the shop, when we ourselves have been busy coping with other aspects of our work.

As our problem of spaying and neutering continues, we are hoping for an improvement in the kitten situation this spring although so far, winter kittens have proved quite numerous. At present we have five mother cats in residence, with no less than nineteen kittens between them. They are all gorgeous and all will require good homes soon.

Resident cases this month have unfortunately increased. Twelve times our ambulance has sped on its mission of mercy, often very late at night. Ten of these sad cases proved fatal, but two are recovering under the care of our veterinary surgeon.

A beautiful marmalade and white young gentleman, who apparently decided to "back Britain" was recently found in the timekeepers office of a local factory. Perhaps he was seeking light housework in his spare time. His owner was traced and we have arranged for him to be neutered.

Leap Years Day, February 29th was marred for us by the death of our beloved parrot, Polly. We feel very sad about this, as she was very sweet and we will miss her very much indeed.

BRANCH NEWS—contd.

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

Due to unavoidable circumstances my report this month has to be limited, illness of committee members and impossible travelling conditions have been the cause of the cancellation of our last 3 committee meetings. Consequently, news of Branch "happenings" is very sparse indeed, but I had fears of any major developments of any nature, I am certain that I should have received some sort of communication from the committee, so I am abiding by the old adage "no news is good news".

It was with deep regret that I learned of the passing of Miss Watson of Dover, I was always spellbound by the frank and honest way that she delivered her report at the A.G.M. I always felt proud to be a privileged listener. I am afraid that I shall experience a sense of loss for a very long time. I must apologise to members for my short chronicle this month but I hope the sincerity of brevity is enjoyed.

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

We are preparing now for our two big sales the April Market, on Saturday 27th April at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, S.W.5. This is very near Earls Court station, by the exhibition exit, doors will open at 2 o'clock.

and The June Fair on Saturday 8th June, 2.30., at the Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, (Ashley Gardens), S.W.1.

It is important to us that these two sales should be successful, we depend on sales for our income, and our need is ever growing, as cats continue to come to our rescue centre from all over London. At present we have a number of small rather wild cats from a site recently cleared, they all have large eyes and very large ears, and they have filled up every spare corner: at first they were not at all pleased to be here, and there was a great deal of hissing, but they are becoming more used to civilised life, the timely gift of a kind member who supplied a helping of chicken all round made them much happier. Will someone offer to help a small black cat called Minna, who ought to have a further month of good food and special care before going to a new home. She is very thin, but will be lovely in time. Please send her 2/6 (or more) as she must have more than we can allow her from our regular funds. Colette continues well and active, and sends further thanks to all her friends.

Our Curio Corner is still in great demand, we welcome anything over 20 years old, and we are delighted to have things much older. A lady of 80 sent us a fan she had been given when she was 14, and that brought £5 for hungry little cats. Fans, small boxes and paperweights are in demand, as well as any pieces of tapestry or woolwork. We have been specially asked for a pretty painted tray, any size, and for a silver-backed hairbrush and/or handmirror. We will also be very glad to have just about anything for our stalls. We always have jumble sections and that includes every kind. So please find something for us.

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

Those readers who have received letters from us recently may have been surprised to find them written by someone other than the Secretary or Treasurer and I am now delighted to say that Miss Hoey, the writer, has been appointed our assistant Secretary. The Committee is grateful to her for taking on this arduous task and relieving our over-worked Secretary and Treasurer.

We are pleased to say that the long-haired off-white cat and the pale grey kittens who later turned tabby, have gone to good homes, fit, spayed and inoculated. Several of our older, long standing residents have also gone to homes and we are most pleased. Soon we shall be facing the "kitten" season.

Will any one give a home to a beautiful blue cat of about two years, brought to us with a kitten, because she was always having kittens and being busy bringing up families, was not a good mouser? The owner showed no interest in the suggestion that her cat should be spayed and returned to her.

We have had a spate of beautiful cats lately. Perhaps you would like a magnificent long haired pure white cat of four years, handed in to us because her owner is moving into a Council flat.

We are told that the R.S.P.C.A. is to open a Clinic in the Finsbury Park area within the next two months. We know that such a Clinic is urgently needed and assure the Clinic and its staff of our utmost co-operation. We hope that such a Clinic will relieve us of some of the strain under which our shelter staff lives.

Can any reader help us with one of our problem cats, who complains at closed doors, even small cupboard doors, until they are opened. When they are opened, he sits looking at them with a self-satisfied smirk, until they are closed, when he starts to complain again; a cat who thinks he is a bat,

and travels around hanging upside down by his claws underneath the furniture, even coming downstairs on his back, head first. Perhaps we have a cat psychiatrist among our readers!

Lastly, we repeat the hope of our last report that our readers will try to find good homes for our beautiful inmates.

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

Ever since Christmas we have received countless requests for kittens and at this time of the year we very seldom have any. Fortunately this makes it easier to find homes for some of the cats, as some people will take a cat if we have no kittens.

You will remember Tinker who was left behind when his owners were evicted. We put an advertisement in the local paper and had many offers for him, and consequently not only was a home found for Tinker but all the other cats at the Shelter went to good homes as well.

A few weeks ago we had a similar case of people moving house and leaving two black cats behind. Both were females, not neutered, and one was in kitten, however, there was a happy ending for them. Mrs. Wilson our vet. at Bexhill, who collected them for us knew of someone who wanted a black cat and finally decided to take both of them.

We were then faced with another problem—how to find a home for a cat of 6 years old or more. He was a stray—a male not neutered, taken in by a very good member of Mrs. Renward of "Watlands", Rye, who incidentally sent us a cheque for £25, when we took the cat from her. We had him neutered and found a place for him in the Shelter and there he stayed when all the others were placed in homes because no one seemed to want a cat of that age. In desperation we put an advertisement in the local paper, and had an answer from one of our members, who said she would like to have him as her cat had died recently and she missed him so much. From what she tells me he is going to be thoroughly spoiled.

A few of our members have collecting boxes and recently an elderly lady in rather poor circumstances brought hers along to be emptied. It contained 18/- mostly in pennies. I congratulated her on the amount and asked her how she collected so much. She told me that very often instead of taking a bus she would walk and put the fare in the box for the cats. I must add that she is very lame and walks with a stick.

On the 29th March we are to have our first coffee evening this year to be given by Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Grant. Mrs. Grant is

very kindly having it at her house—there will be the usual Bring and Buy stall and leaflets.

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

Purrs of approval from all the cats . . . Queen Amber has discovered her enormous bed again. . . . Toshitata is busy chatting up the bullocks next door. . . . Candida is thoroughly investigating every nook and cranny Katie has hied to the roof as always. . . . and the rest of them? well the new Aga is dreadfully cluttered.

These catteries are quite the nicest we have ever had, warm, roomy, and airy. Cosy apartments for each individual cat with plenty of space to roam in safely when they have settled in. Also an efficient working room for helpers etc. Already unwanted cats are being received, and plenty of people have found us in spite of the remote part in which we are living. There will be a big welcome for visitors especially if they phone first, so do arrange to call when in the vicinity. Phone number St. Day 586.

Quite a few more entries for guess the name Cathlowena competition. The closing date will be April 1st. Only one correct entry so far, from Mrs M. Powell of Perranporth. Mrs. Powell adopted Bella a charming unwanted Tabby from us some years ago, and I am sure they will be delighted with the original cat picture by Fish Sefton which they will be receiving. Now for the answer. Cathlowena is made up from the Cornish words, CATH meaning cat and LOWENA meaning joy or happiness. "CAT HAPPINESS" we hope you like the name as much as we do. We have some attractive Fish prints for runners up in the comp. Names will be announced at a later date.

Building is still much in evidence, and at the moment we are all furiously digging trenches to contain water pipes running to the catteries. Even the cats like to help with this, but I do wish Rusty the old ginger would not fill in the trenches in before the pipes are laid. I am delighted to say the money so many of you kindly sent for building has been well and truly spent and we are not completely broke, but there is still some more essential expert labour needed although we can do a lot of the donkey work ourselves. The attractive stable which will house the Bazaar should be ready for Easter, we have a grand assortment of merchandise for sale and we hope business will be brisk. Please keep writing to us, it does help to receive suggestions and advice and we are grateful for the aid you have given us.

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

Quite a number of new members have joined recently and I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming them to the Branch and expressing the hope that they will join in our activities and perhaps, if they can spare the time, lend a hand in the Shelter now and then. We would like to make this a record year for new members so do talk about the League to your animal-loving friends and perhaps you will have the pleasure of enrolling them.

This month, too, I want to thank the many friends (including Anon of Bow) who never weary in well-doing and continue to send us money, milk tops and silver paper, gifts for Sales and, of course, used postage stamps. Often the parcels have an English postmark but no name or address so please accept this as acknowledgment and be assured of our appreciation.

Homes for the older cats are never easy to find but during the past few months we've had some happy experiences in this field. Topsy (known to us as Backtoes) was delivered to her new owners just before Christmas so that she could be settled in over the holiday. A few weeks later I was invited to visit her and found such a happy and contented puss, already free to roam in the garden and a joy to watch as she lay purring and flexing her claws on her lady's lap. Tony is not the most attractive chap we've seen but when he jumped out of his basket

in the kitchen of his new home, hopped on to his old lady's knee and put his paws round her neck she burst into tears. "Is'nt he beautiful?" she said—and so he was to her, for beauty is in the eye of the beholder. They are still very much in love and she was loth to part with him when he went to the Vet for his "op". Nancy belonged to a Garage and when it closed up she and her kitten were left to fend for themselves. A home was found for the kitten and Nancy came to us and stayed quite a while. Then she was offered a job as a shop cat. She was spayed and the shop owner took her to his home until she had fully recovered. She's there still, a close friend of their Corgi with whom she sleeps and she's very happy, thank you. These are just a few little stories—there have been others, for example, the surprisingly large number of people who volunteered to cope with a "problem cat".

Our Jumble Sale brought in about £40 and now we are working on a White Elephant Sale which we hope to have sometime in May. Will you please look around the house and see if you have anything you could spare for this—perhaps when you are Spring Cleaning you will be renewing certain household items. We can sell the old ones. Every little helps. We are hoping that Mrs. McBride will again organize a Grand Draw—probably before the summer holidays. The last one was extremely successful.

Finally, if our plans work out we have in mind a rather extra special meeting in May so watch out for details.

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.

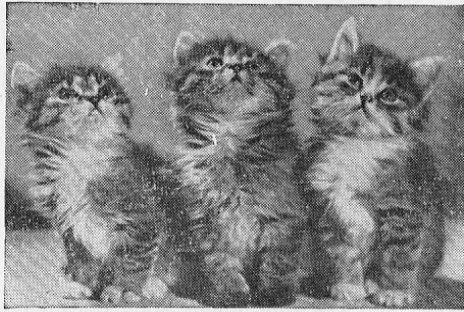
ISLE OF WIGHT: Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. Kent, Cheviot Cottage, St. Lawrence, I.O.W.

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.



MEMBERS CORNER

My cat gave me an awful fright last Sunday. We had a visitor to see my Hubby, who is laid up with pleurisy, and Bootsie can't bear strangers and so I shut her in the kitchen, then later on I went out to the kitchen and she was nowhere to be seen but I could hear crying, I looked everywhere, I could not find her, then I thought, surely she is not behind the gas stove, but when I shone a torch behind the stove, there she was! I thought Oh dear, now what am I going to do, as the back of the stove is only four inches away from the wall, how ever she got down there I don't know as she is a big cat and weighs over 12 lbs. and she just couldn't move one way or the other, lucky my Hubby's friend was still in the house, so he pulled the stove out and as soon as she had room to turn, she shot off to another part of the house.

Ellen Bonwick.

I was interested in the letters sent in by J. E. V. J. regarding her wool-eating Siamese. My boy of 8 years old has been a persistent wool eater since a kitten, despite the fact of living with his brother and sister and grandfather.

I have found this habit worsens when he is given any of the tinned cat foods. With each mouthful of cat food he goes in search of a blanket, a sweater or even bath towels! When in quarantine for six months, he chewed up one tartan rug, two cotton towels and two flannelette sheets.

If he is fed solid foods, I have no trouble with him at all. And if I mix the tinned cat food with broken up dog biscuits, it helps to cut down his wool-eating.

So guess my "Wool Eater" must be one of a hundred where companionship is not the answer! Elizabeth Hill.

I have today despatched to you a large box of pieces of string and enclosed a little note so you would know who sent it. I don't want to bore you but I think you would be interested in what I have to say regarding this string and for other things that have been done, for the League by a Cousin of mine, a young woman in her forties who unfortunately is a deaf mute.

We pass on to her the League's little journal and it was there she saw you asking for pieces of string.

She is employed in the despatch dept, of a large and very well known firm. It would seem that this string is torn off several packets (hence the knot in it) and she and her work mates have a box where this string is thrown, it not being required for any other purpose, so that is the story of the string.

For the past two Christmases she has bought a doll (quite a large one) and has knitted all the clothes for it and brought it to my wife to take to Mrs. Davis at Caledonian Road, she is very kind hearted young woman and a great lover of cats.

I will now tell you a remarkable story regarding her and her cat Timmy and perhaps you would like to write it up for the magazine.

When my Aunt died just over two years ago, or at least when she was nearing the end of her life, she said to my wife and myself, what will become of Betty, she has never had to do anything for herself as far as her home life was concerned and of course couldn't wake up in the morning being unable to hear the alarm clock.

But Betty was no fool and I expect you know that people afflicted by deafness may not hear but can respond to vibration so when she was left alone after her mother's death she realized she would have to depend on herself. She got a tin tray, put the clock on that and then on a table at her bedside hoping it would wake her.

It did nothing of the sort, but it certainly woke Timmy who jumped on her bed and pulled her hair until she was awake, he still does this although the clock is no longer set.

He's a lovely cat but one that would never be fussed, not even by Betty or her mother. But in recent months he has started to get on her lap and be nursed and so of course she is very happy. I enclose a photo of Timmy just in case you think you can make use of this story, which is perfectly true: Harold A. Taylor.



Jenny and Susie

I enclose a Christmas card which we received this year which I think you will find interesting. It depicts Jenny the little girl, and Susie the cat.

Six years ago we found this cat starving and abandoned in the East End. We rescued her, and had her spayed and advertised for a home in this district which is ideal in many ways for cats.

She eventually went to live with Jenny aged four years old, who named her Susie. The vet, said the cat was about five years old.

So now we have Jenny aged 10, and Susie aged 11, living together so happily. We see them both nearly every day and it is interesting that quite a young child has contributed a great deal to the success of this home. I like to think that the general atmosphere of the household is the most important factor in placing cats. This household is almost old fashioned in it's high standards of responsibility and Jenny's mother took the photograph. I. L. M. Henderson.

"I don't think
ALL THAT about mink;
But much prefer
Pelts that PuRR---R."

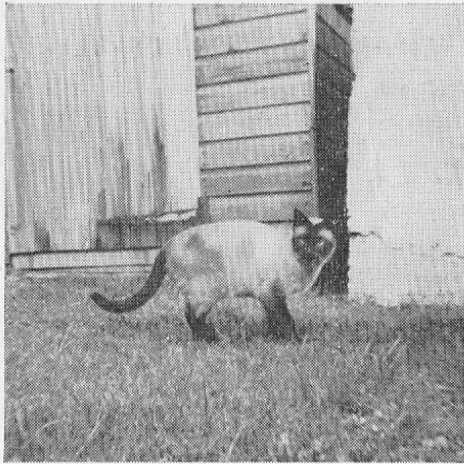
MAUD MOORE

Another tale concerning my peculiar cats, Harry and Alf, the seasoned flat-dwellers. I apologise to J.E.V.J. (Jan. issue) if I happen to explode the most interesting theory regarding wool-eating Siamese. My own Siamese, Harry, while being the softest and gentlest of cats is also, I must admit, a complete nut-case. If he wants to climb a tree he usually takes a running jump and will then miss the trunk by at least a foot, ending some distance from his target. Even an armchair presents difficulties and nine times put of ten he will slip and fall flat on his back (never on his feet!). The Hoover is his greatest joy and his eyes glaze with bliss as he rolls over demanding that every part of his anatomy gets thorough attention with the strongest suction. I suppose therefore, that it is hardly surprising if he does not conform with the wool-eating theory. Harry does have a constant and devoted mate, Alf but I am sorry to say he still loves wool. The odd thing is though, that he never attempts to touch it unless someone whistles. Whistling really sends him! Whatever he is doing it will at once get him into action and he will make a bee line for the nearest woolly object preferably with someone inside it. If allowed to continue he would soon make short work of the garment. I shall be intrigued to know if other Siamese owned unfortunates have experienced the same thing. I fear that Harry's companion Alf is no deterrent.

I was also interested to read in the Branch and Group News from Mrs. N. de Clifford, that a member on the South Coast welcomes holiday visitors and their cats. This has been our practice for some years now. We have a holiday flat in Cornwall and I always make a point of adding "Pets welcomed" This has often brought us cats and dogs with various families and always these holiday pets have been perfectly behaved and never the slightest trouble. I am glad that at least some pets have not been left behind and perhaps, who knows, even uncared for, while their owners enjoy themselves. J. O., St. Austell.

Puss in the Straw "I forgot to tell you that the Pussy has been safely delivered, on one of the armchairs in the Parlour, of a white, white kitten, no bigger than Sally's thumb. The latter is very well, and the former as well as can be expected. She is truly the Lady of the Straw, having a nice bed of that quality made up for her in the Garden, where I take care to have her Victuals regularly conveyed to her."

(Sir Philip Francis to his Wife, 1765)



GIN AND SOAP-SUDS CURE

Mimi, our Siamese, was desperately anxious to "help" us with re-decorating, and at last managed to slip into the room where we were working, and pattered all along the window-ledge that my husband was painting!

Hating the stickiness on her paws, she rushed out, shaking them each in turn, and grumbling to herself, then to our horror, she sat down and tried to lick them clean! I thought quickly of paint-solvents. Turpentine? a known poison for cats. "thinners" constituents unknown, probably unwholesome, but with a spirit-base. Meths? no, what other spirit available? G I N ! So Mimi had her paws carefully cleaned with gin, then washed in lux-suds! She was so good, and although still grumbling, she never tried to scratch or fight. Result? perfect! she wasn't even sick! Mrs. B. H. Ryder.

(Repeated by request).

Although the writer is not, as yet, a subscriber to your magazine, a friend in England has very kindly passed on a couple of copies of "THE CAT" which is very interesting.

By surface mail I am sending you a copy of the New Zealand Weekly news which has some delightful pictures of cats—I am sure you will find them useful.

Anything I can do to help I shall endeavour to do, as opportunity arises, conditions on this island are very different from England however. Mrs. Olive Smith, Waiheke Island, Auckland, New Zealand.

"FELINE IMPERIALIST"

Of all the beasts domesticate,
Which with mankind associate,
All but one are subordinate;
And that one is the cat.

Egyptian go to witch's broom:
Position high—do not assume
Low rodent hunter as her doom.
Try to out stare a cat.

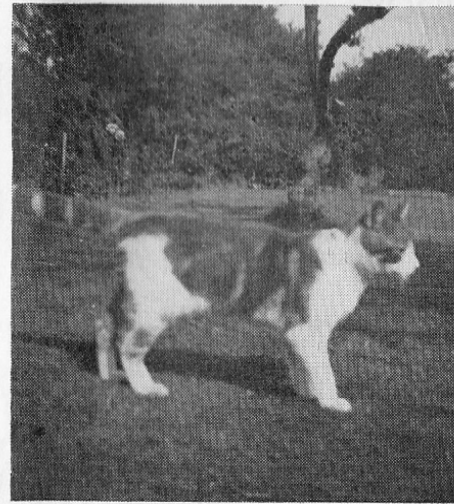
In telly advert is portrayed
Materialist symbol inlaid,
With decadence, deprived:
Misrepresented cat!

For let us the truth behold:
A realist pure; immeasurably cold,
Intolerably sure, arrogantly bold,
But most definitely sold (on herself),
the cat.

*From:- Grant McNair, "Blar-Vaine",
Blairmore, Argyll, Scotland.*

I did not think for a minute that the photo was suitable to be reproduced in The Cat. I just sent it knowing you love cats, for you to see what a lovely cat she is. I am afraid there is no hope of ever getting a natural photo of her, as she is so nervous she wouldn't allow anyone near her with a camera, she is a smokey grey and white. When she was a little kitten, I lost her and I searched the street and gardens, and could not find her, she had been missing for nearly seven hours, when we went to bed at midnight. I felt I wanted to tear the place apart to find her, and after I put out the light my husband said, I'm sure I can hear that kitten crying. Well, there was only one place I hadn't looked and that was up the bedroom chimney, and the flap was down, so I did not for a minute think she would be there, anyway I pushed the flap up, I felt around and I could only feel what I expected, fluff, etc., so I left the flap up, and turned to go back to bed when the flap fell down again. I thought that flaps never fall shut on their own, so I pushed it up again and two little paws came over the top of it and touched my hand, you can imagine my joy, I had a job to get her out as she was behind the flap. That is how it got shut. I just hugged her, dust, dirt, fluff, the lot, you couldn't tell which was her grey and which was her white. As you can guess I went to sleep feeling much happier that night. She is now seven years old. You may find that story worth putting in the Cat one day.

Mrs. E. Bonwick.



"THE STORY OF MIDGE"

"Midge," a kitten too small to be left behind in Co. Kildare when the family went on holiday was put in a box and brought to Dublin by car and was then given to the guard of the train going to Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan approximately a distance of 70 miles.

My sister met the train and Midge started his life with her and her mother for about three years. Midge's life changed when my mother died, the old house was sold and Midge had grown a very big pussy and then was given to friends.

Midge did not like his new home and kept coming back to the old house walking around the place while the furniture was being cleared out and calling and "mewing."

To cut a long story short Midge disappeared shortly after the old house was sold.

He turned up at his old home in Co. Kildare approximately 10 days later and made himself known to my married sister by rubbing up against her legs when she was hanging out her clothes.

My sister recognised the cat as Midge and brought him into the kitchen and made much of him. He seemed all right till he made himself known to her and then he collapsed. His feet were sore and he hardly was able to eat.

My sister wrote to his kind hosts in Castleblayney and asked if Midge was with them and got a reply saying that he had disappeared 10 days ago.

Midge lived in Co. Kildare for a few months and was happy and recognised the terrier

dog he had lived with in Castleblayney and seemed to recognise the curtains from my mother's home which had come to Co. Kildare.

However Midge got an abscess in his side and died some months later, the Vet said nothing could be done for him, it might have been caused by an accident or injury on his long journey.

This is a true story and one can only marvel at the intelligence of what we call an animal.

The enclosed photograph shows my sister and mother with Midge rubbing against her stick and two friends Mr. & Mrs. Marks on either side.

E. M. Taylor M.B.E.

You already know of my Boarding Cattery at this address. I now need permanent assistance in running the business and I am wondering if there is a C.P.L. member or reader of the magazine who would be interested in contacting me, when I should be glad to send her (or him) full details. I can offer separate furnished accommodation, in the same grounds, the post would admirably suit a semi-retired, active person who has no ties, who has a great love for cats and is seeking a country home.

I shall be pleased to answer enquiries, which should be addressed to: Mrs. Sylvia Bassam, "Barnjet", Cuttinglye Road, Crawley Down, Sussex.

IN MEMORIAM — APRIL, 1968

"As though it were yesterday our beloved three Siamese left us. "Tee-Tee" "Shuggy" and "Prinnie". Whilst we live they will never die. Mr. & Mrs. Mann.

Affectionate memories of our little James, killed on the road 20th February, 1968, aged 6½ months. I. & F. Riches, Norwich.

In ever loving memory of our dearest Mumsie, Coco, Cinders and Foo-Foo who passed over in April 1956. God will watch over you, our loved ones, until we are united again in His kingdom. Mr. & Mrs. W. F. H.

In loving memory of Darling "Sambo" T.W.481, put to sleep 16th Jan. 1968, age 12 years. Very dear pet and friend, greatly missed. Mary E. Moore.

In memory of "Fluff" darling little friend for 15 years—had a wonderful life, and lots of Puss friends. M. Forwood.

In affectionate remembrance of Little Peter, who gave us 14 years of happiness. Put to sleep on Feb. 15th, 1968, after a short illness. Sadly missed by Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Brown, Rochdale.