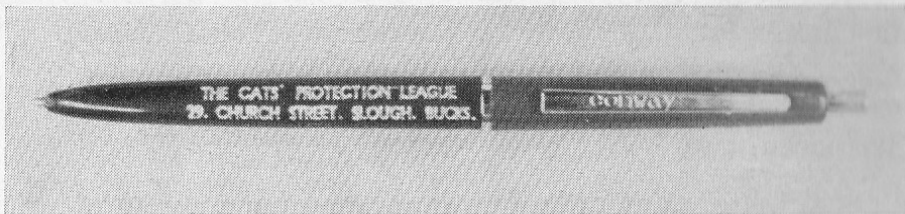


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OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

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.

Buy your hand-knitted dishcloths and/or Aprons to, order in aid of funds. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

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

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.

Perspex Name Brooches in various colours 1/6d. each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E. to Miss P. E. George, Rose Villa, Aelchill Prestiegne, Radnorshire.

Water Colour Portraits of Pets from a clear snapshot, 10/6d. 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.

THIS MONTH'S "SPECIAL"

The 42nd Annual Report

IS COMBINED IN THIS ISSUE

Pages 3 to 5

THE CAT

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



AND

42nd

ANNUAL REPORT

(Jan 1st - Dec 31st)

1968

COMBINED



"Perhaps the most valuable gifts which the cat can give to man are its tranquility and grace and detachment, and in this distracted era of ours we were never more in need of tranquility and grace and detachment." *Compton Mackenzie.*

JULY/AUGUST 1969

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY - FIRST OF THE MONTH

CONTENT: Short Stories — Branch and Group News — Members Letters — CAT CHAT dealing with published references to Cat Welfare and the League's activities and appeals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Selected photos of Members cats and kittens.
Literary contributions and photos welcome. NO PUBLISHING FEES PAID.

Official Organ of
THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE AND TAILWAVERS
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity No. 203644

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PRESTBURY LODGE, 29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS.
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ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

Notification of change of address.

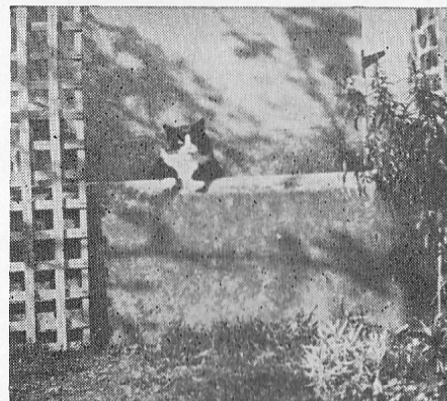
Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers and odd pieces of string (about 18 inches long), for use in the Clinic.

Beads of any size, colour etc.

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 Catterr



ROUND AND ABOUT

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

With this issue of The Cat we reach the half-way stage and pause to take stock, so to speak. Our A.G.M. is upon us at which we decide who will guide the fortune of the League during the next three years. So far we have been extremely fortunate in our choice of Committee members. Over the years and particularly during the present term of office they have served us well and I am sure they will do so during what will be a very trying period, 1969/73, if re-elected, which is naturally what I would recommend.

Whilst on the subject of the A.G.M., the Annual Report, which links the meeting with what has been going on during 1968, will be incorporated with this number. This was decided mainly for economic reasons but it will ensure that all members get a copy of the report and, therefore, are able to assess the progress which has been made nationally.

We regret not all our Branches were able to get their reports in on time so that we might include them with this publication. We realize their difficulties and sympathize with them in their problems but, obviously the more people who know about them through official publications the better their chances are of greater support from members/readers in their districts. I should add that headquarters encourage members to support local activities whenever the occasion arises for us to mention what is going on in their district.

Neutering through the C.P.L. Voucher Scheme is undoubtedly going apace and by the time these notes appear in print we shall have issued about 300 Vouchers representing probably 400 or more cats, this will prevent

the birth of many hundreds of kittens. We are not pushing the scheme by direct contact with press because the "news" is spreading by virtue of its appeal and we find that the message seems to be taken up by the press in parts of the country widely separated, which is all to the good. A little later on, when we are in the position to make a further allocation of funds we will step up the pace. We have not brought our branches into the Scheme but expect to do so after the Annual General Meeting. The Scheme in practice is creating a new pattern which had not been expected so soon. We had foreseen that there would be off-shoot problems and by this I mean following up where arrangements have been made for the speying of a cat which has had kittens to discover what has happened to the kittens. All this will take time but basically we are getting down to the job and ensuring that in many parts of the country there will be less kittens born and, therefore, fewer problems of home finding etc., that would normally emerge if the cat had been left unneutered.

WE ARE CONCERNED about three recent reports culled from different sources. One was the expression of joy by a pet shop owner at having sold a thousand kittens over a specified period. Unfortunately nothing was mentioned about having given advice of any kind to the new owners with regard to feeding, neutering and possible attention by a Veterinary Surgeon in case of illness and the care of kittens during holidays. All of these things are so very important, at least to us, and I hope to learn whether the gentleman does give any kind of advice when selling his kittens. It should be stated here we have suggested that advice of this nature should be given in a booklet form and should be available to the purchaser of kittens from pet shops. So far and to the best of our knowledge this idea has not been put into practice.

The second matter is the increase on pet foods on account of "Tax". It will be a great blow to thousands of cat owners whose meagre income cannot be stretched any further, Cats in general will suffer. Those that are owned by old age pensioners and people with very low income will obviously be affected and the thousands of cats that are kept alive by the many cat lovers who feed them on sites or in derelict buildings will, no doubt, have their rations cut considerably. An appeal was made by one of our members to her Member of Parliament and she has asked me to publish the reply. The answer was "It would be somewhat ludicrous to give an assurance about pet foods rather than, for example, the price of sheets and blankets which affect the setting up of a new home, but we are reviewing the

ROUND AND ABOUT

whole incidence of purchase tax and may well not continue it". Publicity good and otherwise has been one of the subjects dealt with in The Cat many times. We cannot help feeling that all the comments in the press and elsewhere relating to cat food and the amount spent annually by cat owners created an incentive for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to cash in on what is obviously a sellers' market. I rather think that protests will fall on deaf ears.

Thirdly, the number of instances of dumping kittens in bags or just by the road side and the prevailing breeding boost which could so easily get out of hand and add to the army of strays and unwanted cats, a problem with which we are trying to cope, is of considerable concern because there is no need whatever to dispose of unwanted kittens in that way. We recognise the fact that there are a great number of people who hold the view that a cat can fend for itself and added to the intense dislike of having anything killed the line of least resistance is taken and dumping continues and tends to increase. It should be possible to get through to these people and present the facts of cat life, and death, in the hope that they will eventually look at things realistically instead of hypersensitively. They tend to consider their own feelings first rather than those of the cat whose life they wish to save but go entirely the wrong way about it. Cats have become big business and therein lies the danger of money over matter. We are sure there are many breeders who agree with us and whilst we recognise the fact that business is business those who are in the trade must see the justification for our concern and we trust they will direct their publicity with some thought to the army of homeless cats that are the direct opposite of the much admired, petted and cared for aristocrats of the show bench.

A. A. Steward

HELP FOR THE NEUTERING PROGRAMME—1969

After seeing so much of the sad plight of strays over the years I have worked out a few ways of helping in my own area where there is no C.P.L. Branch and I seem to be the only member anywhere near.

1. I look in the local papers for advertisements in "Lost and Found" column and write to anyone who has lost a cat advising them on ways to help find, such as advertising in local shops, getting local school children to look etc. Through this means I have interested several people in C.P.L. and also made "cat friends". One kind person in Oxford has helped me with money for paying for

speying for cats for O.A.P.'s.

2. Look in local shop or paper for kittens wanting homes and see the person advertising asking if they have thought of having the cat speyed to save all this, and if necessary offering to pay or help to pay for this operation. Many say that they thought a cat who had already had kittens was too old.
3. Anyone living in the country could offer transport to the nearest vet (in my case ten miles away).
4. Take in any cats or kittens found straying in the district and either keep them or advertise in local shop. I have found good homes in this way and many have been claimed by the others.
5. If you know of any old person living alone who dies or goes to hospital find out if their cat is being looked after and make arrangements. The same applies to people who move away and leave cats behind. In this case contact the local R.S.P.C.A. as to do this is against the law.
6. If you hear of anyone locally who is feeding strays go to see them and try to persuade them to have the cats neutered or if wild to get them collected by R.S.P.C.A.

A case here about which I have been able to do very little is an O.A.P. couple who have twenty strays. All these have come from one mother cat left behind about five years ago. No one bothered except to feed her and this is the result. Although all are outside, this old couple will not hear of any being put to sleep, although they admit it is too many. All I can do is find homes for as many of the kittens as possible and this becomes increasingly difficult. Any C.P.L. member in Oxford or Reading area who wants a kitten at any time can contact me. They are lovely kittens black, tortoise and tabby mostly long fur.

MONEY RAISING FOR C.P.L.

As well as my "Pet Portraits" and other painting for C.P.L. funds I have this winter been doing hand knitting for orders and earned so far £7.0s.0d. Any members who are able to knit could advertise in a shop charging £1.0s.0s. or 25/- for a jumper or cardigan. Also members with a sewing machine could make childrens' clothes, aprons, cushion covers, etc. If you are a gardener why not sell plants or produce from your garden, also cut flowers?

Look round your house for "Victoriana" which you do not really want, books illustrated by Arthur Rackham or Edmund Dulac, and Hugh Thompson. Any of these in good condition will now fetch good prices at second hand shops.

D. Hall

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.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER - FOR BRANCH AND GROUP HONARY REPRESENTATIVES NAMES AND ADDRESSES

BIRMINGHAM

The last two months have been our busiest ever for cat rescuing. We have had abandoned cats with kittens, abandoned cats without kittens, unwanted cats, cats from a disused gas works, wild cats, tame cats—all have come our way during the last few weeks.

From one small Terrace in a slum clearance area we rescued no less than nine cats—all left behind by their owners. Four were left by a so-called cat-lover whose photograph had appeared in the local paper not long ago with the unwanted cats she had taken in. Yet this did not prevent her from leaving. half of them behind when she herself was re-housed. In fact she took one, and then brought it back again and left it in her derelict house.

The more one works amongst animals, the more amazed one becomes at the number of people like this who honestly believe they are ANIMAL LOVERS.

It was while searching amongst the derelict houses for these four abandoned cats that my attention was drawn to "SCRUFFY".

"D'yer want our Scruffy?" asked one of the children who had come to "help" me as I scrambled over old mattresses, torn-up floorboards, up rickety stairs and down into cellars.

"Yer won't want 'im," retorted another of my young helpers. "e's got another paw grown' out of 'is side."

"I'll take him", I said.

So we searched for Scruffy, but to no avail. Then came yet another phone call. "We've got Scruffy"—can you come?". I went. Scruffy turned out to be a semi-persian whose fur had become so matted and filthy that he did indeed look as though a paw was growing out of his side. In fact he looked as though he was growing wings. He was in a dreadful state.

I rushed him to the vet and asked him to save him if he could. Next day he was given an anaesthetic and his matted fur shaved off. Although very bald, he was otherwise all right. In a month or two, we thought, he might look presentable enough for us to find him a good home. Imagine our amazement and pleasure, therefore, when a week later a nice couple arrived to choose a cat and from all the beautiful cats we had, they chose Scruffy—bald patches and all! We

have since heard from them that Scruffy is becoming beautiful once more and that with daily grooming he is slowly changing from the proverbial ugly duckling into a beautiful swan.

Just as we thought we had cleared all the cats from this area, our chairman, heard of a little mother cat, with kittens in one of the derelict houses. Trying to catch her, she was so badly bitten that she had to go to hospital. An old man who helped kindly took in the cat and kittens until they could be transported to our vet's, but the petrified little mother cat immediately flew up the chimney—in spite of the fire blazing there. Fortunately the old man kept calm, removed the fire from the hearth, shut the door and left her to come down on her own. Sure enough she did, and we now have mother cat and kittens being boarded until the kittens are old enough to go to good homes. The mother has also settled and is gaining in confidence each day.

These are just a few of the cases which have faced us. Similar ones seem to come our way nearly every day of every week.

In our "SPARE" time we advertise, vet homes, deliver cats, arrange for speying and neutering and raise funds!

As a result of the article on neutering which appeared in our local newspaper, vouchers issued by Headquarters are now reaching our vet. This is most encouraging and shows that GIVEN PUBLICITY the voucher scheme DOES WORK.

Many thanks to all those kind people who sent us donations for our Cat Shelter fund which is growing slowly but surely.

Our Jumble Sale, held in May, brought us £19 clear profit. This was just as well as our vet's bill for last month was over £50.

Next week we are holding a dance. This is our first ever function of this type. We hope it will be a success and also that it will raise more funds for our Branch to keep us going.

Finally may we, through The Cat", wish all our friends and members a Very Happy Holiday period. We know you won't forget YOUR cat when you go on holiday, but don't forget to remind your friends and neighbours to make provision for THEIRS.

CHELMSFORD

We are all feeling somewhat despondent (temporarily we hope)—there are so many cat problems and despite our very best efforts we seem to be permanently in a state of financial embarrassment. However, we have two 'events' coming up soon which are a little different from our usual Rummage Sales, Coffee Evenings and Saturday Bargain Sales. We do hope that any readers who can possibly reach Chelmsford will come and meet us first at our STRAWBERRY FAIR on Saturday afternoon, July 12th. Here we will have lots and lots of luscious locally-grown strawberries, served with cream, and also on the menu will be tea, scones and home made cakes. We will sell "bazaar-type" items on our stalls, and we usually manage to have a special attraction at this annual event such as our fortune teller, Madame Tabitha, or the famous Television advertising cats. The Strawberry Fair is held in the garden of the Plough Inn, Springfield Road, Chelmsford (about 1½ miles from Chelmsford town centre towards Colchester).

Our second interesting event is at Chelmsford Cathedral Hall on Saturday (all day) August 9th. Our good friends, the Essex Cat Club, are staging their first exhibition since the club was formed, of prize-winning pedigree cats. They have kindly offered us one or two stalls there (again for bazaar type goods), and we shall also be in charge of the refreshments. All the money we raise will be for us! The E.C.C. hope that the C.P.L. will make lots of money on the stalls and refreshments to help less fortunate cats than those on show. It is hoped that 25 to 30 pedigree cats will be shown and there will also be a competition for the "best household cat." So please come along on August 9th if you possibly can. Needless to say, we would be very grateful for any items to sell at the Strawberry Fair and at the Essex Cat Club Show.

Since the last report two months ago, 34 cats and 14 kittens have been found good homes, and 53 cats have been neutered. So far none of us seems to have a minute to spare from cat problems to sit down and work out a way to seek proper publicity for the League's Cat Population Limitation scheme, but we hope to get the co-operation of the local press and do something about it very soon. We were most impressed with the excellent article which the Birmingham Branch copied in the May/June magazine. Meanwhile we continue to neuter 7 or 8 cats each week.

Of all the cat stories we could recount of the last two months, the one we like best (and which had a happy ending) is about a 12 year old neutered tom, long-haired "Ginger". He lives with a couple, and the

wife every evening drives 5 miles into Chelmsford to collect her husband from the railway station. On their return one evening Ginger, who had been sunning himself on the window ledge during the afternoon, had disappeared. There have been very many cases of cat-stealing in our area recently, and the distraught owners feared the worst after searching locally for many hours with no sign of Ginger. Mrs. Middlemiss was notified and Ginger was added to her list of missing cats. Ten days later Mrs. Middlemiss received a telephone call to say that a stray cat had been hanging around near the railway station. It was Ginger, of course! How he had managed to survive amidst the constant heavy traffic of Chelmsford High Street and the railway station precinct is a miracle. He had obviously had enough of wondering where his owner disappeared to every evening and decided to go and see for himself, completely unbeknown to them! Which all makes one wonder how many cats are taken for a ride unknown to the driver, and then disappear at the other end. Lucky old Ginger to have got home safely from his adventure of going to meet a train!

GLOSSOP

Unfortunately my last report including our 6th Birthday Appeal did not appear in the magazine. Perhaps it arrived too late for publication.

This year we are sending out a special SOS to our friends in an endeavour to Save Our Strays.

We are asking all our friends old and new to please send us as generous a gift as possible. My sister and I have put a lot of our savings into this rescue work and have reached the limit of what we can afford. The number of cats and kittens we are able to help this summer will depend very largely on the generosity of readers of "The Cat".

Reluctantly we have been compelled to cut down supplies of tinned cat food to elderly people feeding strays. The increase in purchase tax will make things even more difficult. One lady of over eighty years of age and in poor health has three cats and a little dog of her own and also feeds about twelve underfed cats which come to her garden from a nearby housing estate. She writes—"Thank you for cats' food received. It has been a very difficult winter. I had to cut down on Food for them so as to give them something. I put food out every evening, also milk if I have it and about six pans of water, I have boxes with hay and tarpaulin covers and find they have all been slept in overnight and all food eaten."

At present we have twenty two cats and thirteen kittens in our care. Several of these are very nervous so will be with us for some

time. If any friend would care to "adopt" one of these for a short or longer period 2/- each a day or 3/- each a day for cats rearing kittens would cover cost of food and shelter. £10 would keep one of these little families until the kittens are ready for homes and the mothers speyed. Tiddles has two ginger kittens, Frisky one.

During the past week we have taken in two more little mothers, with kittens. Susie abandoned in Hadfield, was caring for her little family in a garden. Cooky and her five kittens had to leave their home in Denton because a child returning, from hospital was allergic to fur.

Patch was brought to us last Saturday. A fortnight previously the shop where she had lived changed hands. The new people had an Alsatian which had kept her on the streets.

Black and white Tommy with broken teeth and shortened whiskers was very thin when found straying on a farm. About five years of age, now neutered and very clean and affectionate he would appreciate a home where there are no other animals.

Would anyone within reasonable travelling distance offer a home to one of these or to young white cats abandoned a year ago by a butcher in Hyde. They, have since lived together in derelict property and been fed by girls from a nearby office. Now the property is due for demolition and we have been asked to take them.

Having read our reports in "The Cat", a lady in Nottingham has asked if I could help her to find a home together for two young inseparable cats. One is tortoiseshell with black and orange markings and has a tiny male kitten, the other is a black and white neutered male. A person moving house asked her to care for them for a few days but had no intention of taking them back. This lady also has several other young rescued cats needing homes. I would be pleased to hear from anyone living in or near Nottingham who could offer a good home to any of these.

We are planning to hold a Summer Market during July and a Coffee Morning with stalls in Whaley Bridge in September. Gifts for the stalls would be welcome, not Jumble please, we have nowhere to store it.

I am making a few Welsh ladies from enamel painted sea shells at 3/6 each and will endeavour to meet all orders placed during July, Shell mice 1/6 and rabbits 1/6 are made from natural sea shells, coated with clear varnish. Please enclose a stamp to cover postage.

Miss Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire collects Green Shield and S. and H. stamps for us. A receipt will be sent for a complete book.

I deal with foreign and Special Issue stamps. Please leave a margin of paper round them.

We could make good use of a few more cat-carrying baskets.

We would like to thank all who have helped us in any way, particularly Headquarters for their very generous help with veterinary fees for speyings and neuterings.

Finally *A Subject for Consideration*. In view of the deplorable cruelties inflicted on animals in Japanese laboratories perhaps we could follow the advice of the International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals, and boycott all Japanese goods until conditions are improved.

LONDON COMMITTEE

Our next big occasion will be our autumn bazaar:

Saturday 20th September at St. Mark's Hall, Compton Road, Wimbeldon. (turn Right on leaving the station, and right again after about four minutes walking into Compton Road.) Doors will open at 2 o'clock.

Offers of help and stock for the stalls will be most welcome. Please send to Countess Grudzinzka, 48 Home Park Road, Wimbeldon S.W.19.

Then will come our CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday 25th October at the Cathedral Hall Ambroseden Avenue, (Ashley Gardens) S.W.1. Doors will open at 2 o'clock.

But before either of these, we have a special occasion, for members who live near Peckham, or who will make the journey; on Sunday 27th July two blue-point Siamese are celebrating their birthday by a tea-party with Bring-and-Buy stalls to benefit our strays. The cats are called Sheba and Arcol. Their owner (or ownnee) Miss M. Hamilton is holding their party in her home in Larvanor Road, S.E.15. Anyone who would like to attend should please write to Miss Hamilton at 12 The Close, New Malden for an invitation card. Please let the good news of this party reach any friends in that part of London.

Now a special appeal, will golden cats of Britain please unite to help a poor brother? He has been handsome in his time, pale gold and long haired, now he is over 15, slightly lame, and one ear is crumpled. He has arrived at the Rescue Centre, with every intention of starting out again after a brief rest, but he needs some extra care and ought to join the ranks of the old 'uns. His name is Orlando, and he would appreciate it if some golden cats would rally round.

Our excitement at the Rescue Centre is the new Kittenry, called the Magic Roundabout, which has been provided by special subscription. It is being built, and is not yet quite ready, but the first kitten has already arrived to head the queue, he is tabby, 6 weeks old and as fierce as can be,

he is called Tom Scrap. As soon as the roof is on, he will be moving in, at present he is living in our sittingroom and driving out all the other cats.

Curio Corner is very low in stock, so if anyone has any little bits left, we would be very glad to have them. We have been asked for anything which could help a fortune-teller, specially a crystal ball, or anything made of crystal, tarot cards, or/ and a ouija board, if you happen to have one in a cupboard, please send to us at 12 The Close New Malden. We would also like a filagree basket, or anything in filagree work, and some Tunbridge Wells wear. Those are quite special requests, we are very pleased to have any old thing, and the older the better, in general.

We want to have a stall of "holiday souvenirs." Will everyone on holiday please think of us and bring back something for this? If you happen to have something from your last holiday, could you please let us have it?

Our boutique of good-as-new clothes is becoming well known, we are always very glad to have any good garments for this, so please go through your wardrobe, and send us everything, except perhaps what you stand up in. Think of the fun you will have buying more!

I do thank you very much for all you are going to send us.

NORTH LONDON

We have at the Shelter recently received a visit from a lady who, eight years ago, took two cats from us. Since then, our visitor has lived for several years in Italy and has now returned to live in England. The two cats have accompanied her at all times. It was refreshing for us to meet someone who cares so much for her cats. It is our usual experience that people make removal an excuse for having their pets put down, even if the move is to an address just around the corner.

It is always sad to lose links with the past "Chips" one of the late Dr. Matthews ten cats, has just died. Miss Magee now has only six of the original ten, among them "Sally" who celebrated her 23rd birthday early this year.

In our last report we mentioned feeding our cats on rabbit. With rabbit at the price it is, you must have thought that we pampered our residents and wasted our meagre funds and we feel that we should explain that the cats are provided with this treat once a week by our very good helpers, the Misses Hoey.

We are very accustomed to dealing with strays but recently we had a stray with a difference. At 10.30 one recent evening our secretary was taking her dog for its last walk when she found a brief-case which had been

thrown into a plantation. Opening it in the light of a street lamp, she saw a four foot snake curled up in the bottom of the case. Needless to say, she hastily closed the case, brought it home and phoned the Police who arrived believing they were the victims of a hoax, since a python (as the snake turned out to be) is not usually allowed to stray. The police gingerly opened the case and after being assured that we would not want the return of the "goods" if they remained unclaimed, they took the python to the London Zoo. Sadly it was found to be dead on arrival. Whether it died from lack of air in the case or whether it was dead when discarded we shall never know.

Our "Bring and Buy" sale in April was a great success, socially and financially and we thank all those who supported us. We also thank those who have sent us green and pink stamps. The Shelter has already benefitted with new saucepans and tea towels.

Arthur, the last of our six pure white cats has gone to a wonderful home at Leigh-on-Sea and we are grateful to his adopter. We also thank the member who adopted an older long haired black cat after it had been living rough for two years.

Talking of our "old girls" reminds us of Judy, a dog who came to the Shelter some eight years ago, when we took in dogs, goats and all strays. Judy was brought in by her owner with the threat that if we refused to take her, she would be abandoned on the street. Naturally, she was taken in and, as it was near Christmas, was lodged with a family for the Christmas period. The "Christmas period" has lasted for eight years but Judy has never forgotten that she was saved by a Cat Shelter for she adores all cats. Each night, she is accompanied by two neighbouring cats on her last walk. The cats follow Judy for the whole walk, rubbing themselves against her and stopping whenever she does.

We are now receiving very many requests for list of boarding catteries, mostly unaccompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and the cost of postage is a drain on us. If you should require a list, please enclose a stamp. Recently we had difficulty in controlling ourselves when giving a lady particulars of Scottish catteries over the telephone. We explained that we gave the addresses as a service and could not comment on their suitability; it was for her to inspect to satisfy herself on this point. In reply we were told that it was disgusting that we had not visited the Scottish catteries to ensure that they were satisfactory.

In the Shelter at the moment, we have "Boss Cat" who rules cats and humans alike. He is a ten year old large black and white cat whose language is appalling. He badly

needs the civilizing influence of a good home with respectable people who will not object to the occasional swear word. If no home is offered, he is destined to remain with us permanently, corrupting all our other inmates.

Again this year we shall be selling our Christmas cards. All feature past residents at the Shelter, photographed by Mr. John Gay, the well known photographer who, generously, makes no charge to us. Although we say so ourselves, the cards are most attractive and the cost is only 10s. 0d. per dozen, plus the cost of postage to you, approximately 8d per dozen cards. Please order early since the packing and dispatch of cards gives Miss Hutt, our Treasurer, much hard work if orders are left until December.

NOTTINGHAM

Not a great deal to report. However, we have one sad little tale with a happy ending. A little girl, Angela Cruse, aged eleven years, took a little kitten, approximately one week old, to our Chairman, Mrs. Brice-Webb, as it had been abandoned by its mother, to see if it could be saved. Under Mrs. Brice-Webb's instructions, Angela fed and reared, by hand this little mite, feeding it regularly through, the twenty-four hours of the day, and we are pleased to say that it is now quite strong and healthy, and a good home has been found for it. As we feel that Angela has done such a wonderful job with "Tessa" we have accordingly written and expressed our thanks to her—if only there were more children like her. The mother has been speyed and Angela has kept her.

At the local Royal Ordnance Factory, Nottingham, there are four cats which are continually having kittens which either get lost or abandoned, due to it being impossible to find homes for them all. The men are very fond of these cats and pay for and provide all their food. As they have been worried about them continually having kittens, one of our members has got them to agree to having them speyed, one has already been done, and the other three will be done very shortly.

Since the A.G.M. we have recruited four new members, and we shall hope for even more during the remainder of the year. We are hoping to spread the work of the League throughout Nottingham and make this a strong and active Branch.

SUSSEX

At the beginning of May we had five young cats in our Shelter, and because there were so many kittens about we were not getting offers of homes for the cats. We decided to have an appealing advertisement in the local paper, and by this we ob-

tained good homes for four of them. The other is a bit of a problem as it hates other cats and children.

We heard from the new owner of one of our cats that when he arrived and they let him out of the basket, he dashed into the bathroom and under the bath, where he stayed for a week, only coming out for meals which had to be served in the bathroom. At the end of a week he dashed out of the front door and disappeared for six days when he was found sitting on the doorstep very hungry and repentant. From then on he decided that he had a good home and there was nothing to be frightened of, and he settled in with the new owner quite happily.

A few weeks ago I had noticed a very pretty white cat looking rather grubby which seemed to be living in a shed in the yard of a chapel at the end of the road. Every morning when I went down shopping she greeted me and rubbed round my legs, and when I took food and milk she was very hungry. On two occasions I went down quite late at night and called her, and she always came running so I decided she really must be a stray. Mrs. Bailey, one of our good members, who already has two cats which had been strays, said she would give Snowy a home. She has settled in well, and purrs her contentment at having a bed to sleep on and good food, and now after a week she is "whiter than white".

A woman came to the office with two week old kittens in a carrier bag. She had taken them from their mother to the P.D.S.A. to be put to sleep, and the vet had sent her to us. She said the mother was very upset when she took the kittens from her. I told her to take them back at once and keep them until they were eight weeks old, when we would find homes for them or take them to "Cat Haven".

Another lady called to ask if we could take a little cat that had been found in a dustbin with the lid on. Some children told her that they thought there was a ghost in the bin as they could hear a noise and didn't like to look. We are boarding the little cat, who is in kitten, with Mrs. Wilson our vet at Bexhill, and she will be able to have her kittens there in comfort.

A lady walking on the Downs came to a little wood where she heard a cat crying. She looked around and in a tree she saw a kitten about four months old which came down when she called it. She then heard cries from another tree and another kitten came down when she called. They were beautiful little silver tabbies, and as there were no homes near she decided they must have been dumped there from a car so she took them home and phoned us. We are now hoping to find homes for them.

On May 14th we had our Annual General Meeting followed by a Coffee Evening. By combining the two events the A.G.M. was much better attended. Unfortunately it was a very wet night which kept a number of people away, but we realized a profit of £21.16s.8d. on the Coffee Evening after deducting expenses. We thank Mrs. Morgan, our Chairman, and Miss Madden our Assistant Secretary, who acted as hostesses, and all those who supported us in spite of the bad weather.

ULSTER

The Limerick Competition created a lot of interest and many fine efforts were received, which must have made judging extremely difficult. We express our thanks to Mrs. Olive Hasluck of the Ulster P.E.N. Club for undertaking this unenviable task. Although most of the entries came from England the Prizewinners were both Ulster folk—I give you my word that the Judge was unaware of this until her choice had been made!

1st. Mrs. Janet Kennedy, 3 Waterloo Gardens, Belfast.

A cat knows its wants and its wishes,
And decides what you'll put on its dishes,
Where to sleep, where to run,
When and how to have fun.

Just think how much wisdom that this is.

2nd. Mrs. M. Clark, 16 Kincora Avenue, Belfast.

A pussy who only liked liver,
When presented with fish gave a shiver.
"I'm not casting aspersions,
My only aversion's"
He said "To the gift, not the giver".

Many thanks to all who entered—I hope to have some more of the Limericks printed in "The Cat" from time to time.

Here is an important date—please note it in your diary. Our Sale of Work will be held on Saturday, 13th November. This is much later than usual and a sort of experiment but we want to give it a slightly more Christmassy flavour. We want it to be a very special effort on account of our Birthday celebrations so please start now collecting items for the stalls.

The Great Cat-lovers Carnival, which was actually meant as a Birthday frolic for ourselves made a profit of over £40 and it was enormously popular. Thanks to the efforts of Miss Doreen Galway and her Band even the "oldies" among us were tripping a light fantastic toe—and everyone is clamouring for us to "have another one". I think we will.

In May we had a White Elephant Sale and raised close on £60. We thank sincerely Miss Margaret Taylor who spent many hours

toiling up and down stairs, sorting and arranging the "elephants". Few people have any idea of the amount of work she puts into these efforts. We also thank the organizers of the Jumble Sale and all who helped in both cases. Unfortunately the helpers are all too few—please there must be some members who could lend a hand occasionally, both at fund-raising efforts and in the Shelter. Do volunteer—we need you desperately.

Also desperately we need homes for the cats—won't some of you offer a home as a Birthday gift? Although I reckoned that four cats was enough for anyone I felt I could not decently ask other people to take in an extra one unless I was prepared to do likewise. So Tabitha, my Birthday baby, has joined my family. She's a charmer and a great pal for big brother Andy. Even Dingo, the fat one, plays with her. Sheila and Sooty don't condescend to notice her at all.

Cat Snap Competition. Once again we are organising a cat snap Competition which proved so popular last year. Coco has offered his silver cup to be competed for once more. This year we have two classes only—1. Colour snaps 2. Black and White. Entry fee—2/6d. per snap and stamped, addressed envelope to the enclosed for return. In addition to the Cup there will be two other prizes. Entries to me (Miss E. R. McKee, 92a Earlswood Road, Belfast, BT4 3DZ). Closing date—30th September.

Mr. and Mrs. McBride have kindly offered to arrange a Ballot for us in the Autumn as their special Birthday effort. This is no small undertaking and we thank them and promise our support.

By the time you are reading these notes our Birthday "Open Day" will be over but Members and friends who come along will be much impressed with the improvements at "147". First there is the lively new out-door run attached to the main Cattery. It is already in use and it is such a pleasure for even the newest cats get out in the sun in perfect safety. This run was a gift from Miss M. Doey in memory of her friend and fellow C.P.L. member. Then we have also an additional Cattery building given by Dr. and Mrs. Smyth in memory of their cat, "Cassius". We still need cages for this fine, sturdy hut and also plan to have a run surrounding it and since this year is our 21st Birthday year and everything is rather special we wonder if friends would like to provide the cages and run in memory of their pets. Several people, to whom the idea has been mentioned, have welcome the suggestion and promptly offered a donation so that a well-loved puss, now gone to its happy hunting-ground, could be permanently remembered. We have still to work

out exact details but at the moment the plan is that for amounts in the region of £3.3s.0d. the name of subscriber and pet will be inscribed on a general plaque but for larger sums, say £10, a complete cage would be named after a pet and an individual plaque attached. Anyone who is interested could contact Mr. Parker or myself. Oh, I almost forgot the new kitten run for the tinies—would anyone like to dedicate this to the memory of a beloved kitten?

A final "Thank You" to all who send stamps, old nylons, milk tops and all the other things we ask for. Perhaps I shall meet some of our friends at the A.G.M. in London and have the opportunity to thank them in person.

WEST CORNWALL

The response for our pictures of Cathlowena were heartwarming. We now hope our artist friend will produce a picture of the other side of the big yard which includes the catteries. Plenty of pictures left if you would like them. Just send P.O. for 3/6 and a stamp and you can see for yourselves where the feline O.A.P.'s live.

Vivienne our artist helper has been bombarded with some really beautiful pebbles and has been working overtime painting on names etc. We are now working on masculine cat lovers to begin the cementing on the wall to complete the job. Now we have unlimited space and the Cornish beaches can offer vast quantities of pebbles. So if you wish to remember your pets past or present a donation will ensure a pebble and a space in Amber's garden.

Photos should be available in the summer when the garden is in bloom. Incidentally we were touched by the kind person who not only sent a donation, but ordered some unusual shrubs to be sent to us.

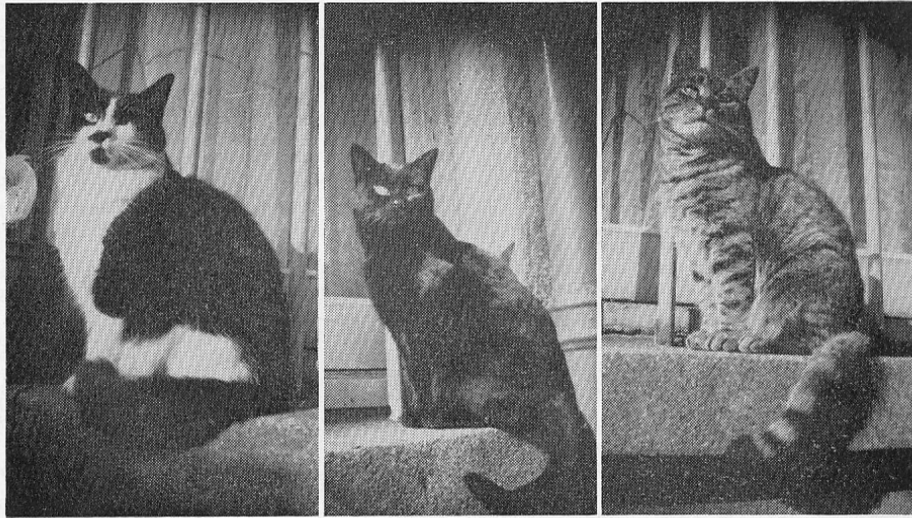
Below: H. Q. Cattery



Constant phone calls and visitors keep us busy. We do our best for everyone, but sometimes this isn't enough. It was a heart-breaking experience to have to cope with a cat in a deplorable state of sheer neglect and disease, which was brought to us in the middle of a happy Open Day by a so called cat lover who had been feeding it for four months when it first strayed in. One of us had to rush it to the vet where it was impossible to do anything but put it quickly out of its misery. We sadly wonder how many more cats like this are being "fed" by "cat lovers".

Interest has been aroused by the mention of our magical trough. It has a fascinating depth, clear and cool and the coins glint among the pebbles at the bottom, and wishes are coming true in a startling fashion. Searching through folk lore and legend we like to believe that this special water place has connections with Corineus a valiant character who vanquished the largest of giants, an eighteen feet high monster called Gog Magog. In recognition of his brave feat he was proclaimed King of Cornwall. If you would like to know the full story of this remarkable man we would be pleased to send you a pamphlet on receipt of a S.A.E. and of course if you would like to place a wish in King Corineus' Trough, just send a P.O. and seal your envelope making your wish as you do so. We will change the P.O. into coins, and toss them into the waters with your premeditated wishes.

Some lovely Edwardian clothes were presented to us recently and these have caused much admiration. We hope we can make money by hiring them out. Also they will give an added interest to our "side shows" If you have any old clothes up to 1930, do send them to us. We have two kind souls who are prepared to repair and press them and they will be enjoyed and treasured.



THREE TAILWAVERS

Charlotte (T.W. 3688) now a portly dame of 8 years, came here at the age of 18 months when, having been a stray, she was about to be put to sleep—the Vet said nobody wanted her because she has a funny face due to irregular markings. Well—those who turned her down missed a lot, she is a dear—affectionate and clever, with a resounding purr and always lots to say. She is very friendly and loves playing hostess to visitors. At the time of her arrival I had an old cat, Winkle (T.W. 3055) then aged 14, who had been the one and only, adored and spoilt, from the age of 6 weeks and I feared he might be unhappy with another cat, but Charlotte was so sensible, never interfering with him in any way, that after a short time they settled down together. Three years later Winkle had to be put to sleep and I went to the Cats Rescue Centre and brought back Johnny (T.W. 4139) then aged about a year, and tabby, just like a re-juvenated Winkle, which puzzled Charlotte at first, but she soon realised that he needed love and help as he was in a very bad state and terrified of everything and everybody. She showed him round and seemed to give him confidence, especially when he started going

out into the garden. She used to sit fatly on the steps, like a Nanny in the park, watching her charge and if I lost sight of him I would say “where’s Johnny, Charlotte? Go and find him”, and she would look at me, say “Purrrum” and run off—she always knew where he was, and always brought him back. When I tried this on recently to see what she would do she gave me a withering look and said that Johnny could look after himself these days. Johnny is very lovable, small and cuddly, a little slow but so grateful for his security.

Two years ago we three offered a home to Charolene (T.W. 4365) then 9 months old unwanted and un-cared for. She is all black with gorgeous green eyes, a gay little cat for whom life is just one long game.

Besides their Mum the cats have an Auntie and her sleeve Peke, named Sparrow because she is black and tiny and very bright. Last summer my friend was in Hospital and Sparrow pretended she was a cat for the duration of her orphanhood—they all slept in each other’s baskets and Charlotte turned nurse maid again and attended Sparrow when ever she went to potter in the garden. Altogether four happy animals and two devoted Mums!

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR
A G M INVITATION?

TRIBUTE TO BOSUN-SIAMESE

August 1962—March 15th 1969

Bosun’s short voyage on the ship of life would probably have ended even sooner but for his tenacity as a kitten.

Born into an “ordinary” litter to a black farm cat, to all appearances he was a seal-point Siamese. This superiority over his family must have given the incentive to leave his hard-worked and short-lived companions and seek somewhere more in harmony with his ancestry.

As soon as his legs would carry him he made his way across the fields and down a wooded hillside, where my cousin heard him crying piteously. She took him in, fed him and made enquiries, then reluctantly returned him to his rightful owners.

But the next night as the rain lashed against the windows, she was awakened by the same pitiful cries, and the scrap of a kitten was again taken in, dried and fed. This time he did not return to the farm. He was bought and settled contentedly into the home of his choice, never going far from the threshold.

Unfortunately my cousin became ill and it was necessary to look ahead and realise that for Bosun’s well being it would be best to find him another home. After much searching we placed him where a much-loved elderly cat had died, in the Somerset village which has the tag: “Out of the world into

LUCIUS GOES TO CHURCH

Living, as I do, in a small village, the Catholic Church is some distance away. So, recently, the priest kindly came and said Mass for us in the lounge of a lovely old house.

We were seated around, happily chatting, when A Very Important Person Made An Entrance. This V.I.P. was a magnificent Seal Point Siamese. He walked up to everyone in turn and welcomed us with loud, penetrating cries. His name, we were informed was Lucius.

The priest placed the ornaments of the Altar on a beautiful antique oak table. When he had finished, Lucius walked solemnly around it, tail erect, on a tour of inspection, for all the world like a Bishop making a visitation.

“I don’t know whether he is for us or against us”, said the priest starting to put on the Eucharistic vestments, Lucius said nothing, but he surveyed the long

Stogursey, out of Stogursey into the sea.”

In this peaceful home there was a gap to be filled, and for the next six years Bosun filled it to perfection. He gave his owner great comfort and happiness, going for walks on a harness and never leaving her. At night he would sleep with his head on the pillow and have his own hot-water-bottle. Many were the sacrifices made to ensure that he had his special “Siamese—Pussy” food and other comforts, but this was considered a small return for all his loving loyalty and affectionate ways.

Although he usually went on holiday with his owner, and was received as one of the family by her relatives, there were times when he could not be accommodated, and was boarded with a friend who kept a “pussies’ house” on the Quantocks. For these special occasions Bosun took with him a straw hat with a feather which he enjoyed wearing, and it was said of him: “He was very gentle, and had a great sense of humour.”

A year or so ago he moved to Hayling Island, where he again made many friends, and when the lung infection which ended his life became known, willing helpers put everything else aside in their efforts to save him.

Bosun leaves behind an aching heart but also the memory of much joy from a truly satisfying companionship. Cicely Waddon.

swinging tassels of the Girdle with considerable interest.

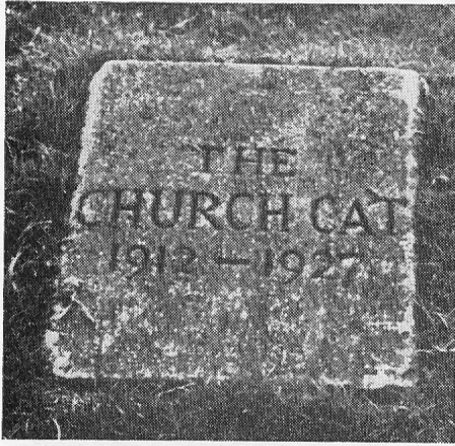
During Mass, the behaviour of Lucius was impeccable. He sat quiet, attentive, absorbed, an example to us all!

When the priest went amongst us, giving Holy Communion, Lucius sat curled, softly purring, eyes winking, tail gently twitching. Was he remembering his ancestors, who, according to Baruch, prowled desolate amongst the long neglected idols of Babylon?

It was only when Mass was over, and some girls from a nearby Convent began singing a hymn, that Lucius jumped down, weaved around amongst them, and started to sing himself. Very, very loudly and noisily indeed.

Having thus made obsequies with Angels and Archangels and all the company of Heaven, Lucius disappeared into the kitchen, presumably for sustenance, and we saw him no more.

E.M.S.



TOM, THE CATHEDRAL CAT, HAS BEEN PUT TO SLEEP

Tom, the Exeter Cathedral cat, is dead. Suffering from an incurable dose of cat 'flu, he was put to sleep to-day. Thousands of people all over the world have met Tom while visiting that part of Exeter where he spent his life.

His memory will be perpetuated in the Cathedral for centuries to come, for a carving of his face has been incorporated in the stonework of the new St. James' Chapel.

Tom was 11 years old, and belonged to the Head Verger, Mr. Edward R. Hart, and his wife, both of whom were very upset at losing him.

He spent his life hunting about the Cathedral grounds, the grounds of the Bishop's Palace, and the Cathedral buildings, for rats and mice. It was in an encounter with an owl that he lost his left eye.

ON BISHOP'S THRONE

The life Tom lost to-day was probably his ninth, for during the war he refused to take cover in an air raid shelter. Even when the Cathedral was bombed, he was sitting on top of Mr. Hart's shelter. He was completely unmoved even when pieces of shrapnel fell near him.

Until recently he regularly attended Cathedral Services, during which he could be seen sitting bolt upright as if taking it all in. He sometimes sat on the Bishop's throne, but never trespassed on the altar.

Hundreds of letters have been written about him to Mr. Hart and dozens of newspaper articles have been printed. He was once honoured by the journal "Cats and Kittens" where a visitor to the Cathedral

wrote: ". . . and a special collection was being taken there for the Cathedral restoration. As we entered we saw just inside the door the Dean and a canon in scarlet robes, seated behind a refectory table on which were two large salvers for the gifts of all who wished to help. Also, seated on the table beyond the second salver was an enormous light tan tabby cat who seemed to say to all who passed: "I hope you have given generously to this worthy cause." I could not, in fact, imagine anybody having the nerve to pass him without making a donation."

Mr. Hart told an "Express and Echo" reporter today that Tom had been ill for about a week, and had hardly eaten anything.

He was this afternoon buried in a corner of Mr. Hart's garden, adjoining the Bishop's Palace grounds. It is expected that some form of small memorial will be made for his grave.

WREN CHURCH TO CLOSE

Services held under tower: Copy extracted from the Daily Telegraph Reporter.

The Wren Church of St. Augustine with St. Faith, one of the smallest to hold services regularly three times a week, is to close. It is in Watling Street, near St. Paul's Cathedral.

Twelve women, mostly retired teachers, nurses and housewives, visit the church daily from 7.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. by rota to keep it open for public worship.

They come from Barnet Wanstead, Ealing, Clapham and Lewisham. All that remains of the church, which was damaged by fire in the 1941 bombing, is the fine pinnacled, ornate tower, under which the services are held.

Only 26 can be seated, but on Sunday there are often, people standing, including visitors from all parts of Britain and the overseas. The Rev. Henry Ross, the rector, who is 87, conducts the services regularly.

Picture of Cat

The congregation is faithful to the memory of a famous tabby cat, "Faith", who stayed in the church when the fabric was falling around her on the night of the bombing. Her picture and "citation" for the Dickin Medal hang on the church wall.

Now the congregation has put up a small tombstone to her memory. It reads:

"Faith, 1934-1948. Our renowned and loving City Church Cat, the Bravest Little Cat in the World,—September 28th 1948.

IN MEMORIAM

The Duchess Nana, May 1947—May 1960. Unforgotten: Daily remembered gratefully. E.C.

In ever loving memory of my little Pussum, who had to be put to sleep. At rest in your heaven, my darling. May we meet again. V.G.

In loving memory of "Felix" 1951—1969. She was my constant companion for 18 years; died after a short illness on April 13th, 1969. Sleep in peace dear Felix, we will meet again in God's Kingdom. Sadly missed she now lies at rest in the garden. Mrs. Lyons and Family, Glasgow.

Tender memories of my adored Pud, put to sleep, incurably ill, on 17th June, 1967, in her 15th year. Enshrined in my unforgetting, ever-loving heart. M. Burgess.

In memory of our never-forgotten Tom Kitten on the 2nd anniversary of his death, April 14th, 1967.

Tailwaver "Pippa", killed in a car accident on 14th April, 1969, aged 3 years. Much loved pet of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Sara.

In loving memory of "Candy" T.W. 4333 who died on March 24th, 1969. Greatly missed by us all. Reverend Mother.

In ever loving memory of our dearest STEPHEN, T.W. 2286, who passed over on June 29th 1957, aged 13 years. God is watching over you, darling, until we are re-united in His Kingdom for all eternity.

Mr. and Mrs. W.F.H.
Paddy June 22nd 1960. Still remembered in affection. E.M.P., E.R.R.T.

In memory of my most loving and faithful friend Bonnie put to sleep July 8th 1968, and also of all my many other little friends who have gone to the happy hunting ground. M. Neville.

"TURLO" T.W.No. 2810, age 10. My clever, faithful, amusing companion for all those years. Annrid Johnston.

Remembering with very deep affection and pity, a family of four dear little black and white kittens, came into my life for so short a time and yet so dearly loved. Very reluctantly had to be put to sleep. Some day we'll understand. H.R.P.

Recently retired nurse seeks quiet unfurnished accommodation where beloved cat (house trained neuter) may come too. Anywhere southern half of country. Mrs. Kennedy, Top Flat, 8 St. Winifred's Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

In precious memory of my darling white cat, 1945—1956. Only au revoir "PETER" D.M.Sutton.

Candy Pearce T.W. 4519. 1954—1969. A starving stray kitten at 3 months who became the most loving little cat: Most dearly loved and sadly missed. Chloe Pearce.

In loving memory of my sweet "Pudsy" constant companion for 13 years. It is so hard to part. K.P.

In loving memory of my cat "BLOB" who had to be mercifully put to sleep on May 24th. Mrs. J. M.

In memory of our beloved sweet friend Twiddles that we lost on Wednesday, 4th June, 1968. We miss her very much. Mr. and Mrs. E.M.

"In loving memory of Ching and Koko who went to sleep December 1967 and July 1968. Ever in our thoughts". E.R.C.

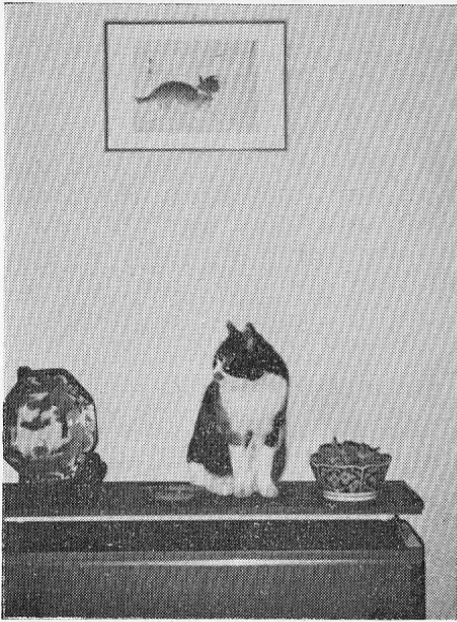
"MIMI" T.W. 4664 seems identical with the cat on the C.P.L. literature. She is half-pedigree (British Blue mother) and the biggest supercilious cat snob around. She hates women and likes classical music, men and only top class food. She is aged 3 years 9 months, and is, from her mother's side, from the "Jezreel strain".

Of all her toys, Tibby prefers a simple pipe cleaner, and you can get a whole bunch for 3d. She also climbs up and runs off with my spontex dish cloth and my sponge pan scrubber. M.C.B.

Recently I had to take my old car off the road. Although in perfect mechanical order, the chassis was rusted through. The old Mark VII Hillman (15 years old) had carried many, many stray cats to the vet for neutering and spaying and then on to new homes and, incidentally, a Shetland Collie to the Veterinary College for an emergency operation.

As you will see the old car had been a good friend both to me and to the feline world. When I ran it in for breaking, I was presented with £2 for the good tyres and parts, but I do not feel I can utilise this money for anything except to help the cats. So am sending it to you. W.M.W

Urgently wanted very good home for ginger and white female kitten (obtained from pet stores). The matter is urgent as the advertiser is unable to add this waif to her present large family of strays. Enquiries to Miss K. E. Walton, 16 Milton Road, East Sheen, London, S.W.14.



"CHIISAI"

Chiisai, (T.W.4539) here seen happily settled in London, was born in Tokyo. Her name means "Small"—a reference to her size, not to her tail. In Tokyo she shared a house with two other cats, Wildy, who had a long tail, and No. 5, whose tail was half-length, with a hook at the end. They were great friends and used often to come for walks with me, playing hide-and-seek amongst the bushes. In winter, No. 5 used to try to pin down my shadow, leaping on it with all four feet and much disconcerted when it slid away from her.

When she was a kitten, Chiisai found it very difficult to wash; I suppose a tail acts as a counterpoise. In consequence I used to have to sit on the floor propping her up with one hand. Now she leans against a cushion or a wall, bowed over at the waist like a rag doll, even falling asleep like that.

Of the three cats Chiisai was the only one who, although born wild, had no touch of claustrophobia. The others could never have stood the journey, or the long months of quarantine, so they moved just next door. Chiisai and I flew back over the Pole, a grim journey as unfortunately the tranquiliser recommended for the flight produced alarming reactions—almost a sort of fit—but

thanks to the extremely sympathetic and helpful air crew, she was allowed to spend much of the time on my lap and slowly recovered. Quarantine followed, and it was nearly a year after she came home that she seemed at last really happy and secure. Miss P. Winch.

A Colosseum Tabby

In Rome visitors to the Colosseum frequently visit the bar within this famous monument. While slaking the thirst brought on by the summer heat, they often watch the antics of the tabby that loves to climb onto the back of a woolly toy lion. It obviously enjoys the acrobatics that it performs. This cat is but one of the many that lives in the Colosseum. It might interest readers to know that the proprietor told me that he frequently feeds cats that come into his little cafe. He did not know that I had an interest in The Ark, or in animal welfare. It might be added that he is known also for the very good tea that he brews, and offers with a courtesy that makes it the more enjoyable. He also speaks sufficiently good English to make life easier for visitors who do not know Italian. One sight that rather horrifies the animal lover in Rome is that of the dogs, so many of which are muzzled. This is due, however, not to a cruel streak in the people of Italy, but to the fact that "rabies" has not yet been completely eradicated from the animals. Even after a scratch from a cat it is advisable to see a doctor. if you can afford his bill.

The Rev. F. Leo Smith, S.D.S. *The Ark*.

CAT WARNING

A letter about cats (this page last week) reminds me of an interesting experience which happened during the 1914-18 war.

As I was born in Shanghai, and spent my formative years in China, I was given command of a Chinese labour force in Etaples, Northern France, during the war.

I was responsible for their welfare and understood their mentality, which helped to convince them that the warnings of air raids by a stray black cat was worth taking notice of.

We had no official warnings of air raids by the enemy and had to rely on our hearing to take shelter. Sometimes this gave us little or no time. The cat of which I write would come into my hut a considerable period before the enemy planes came over and waken me up!

This happened so regularly that the minute it appeared I mustered the men and we all took shelter in good time.

I am sure this cat saved many lives—including mine. I am not what is known as a cat lover—no doubt being a little afraid

of their super intelligence—but I lived to bless this one!

K. C. Liddell. *Sunday Express* 10.3.1969.

During recent violent thunderstorms I had a most remarkable experience with three strangely assorted visitors.

The storm was at its height when my black poodle, who normally never worries about thunder and lightning, began to cry and run backwards and forwards to the back door.

On opening it I found a miniature river flowing down the steep path, culminating in a lake which swirled round the steps leading up to the door.

Huddled on the top step were a terrified tortoise-shell cat, a large hedgehog and a bedraggled blackbird.

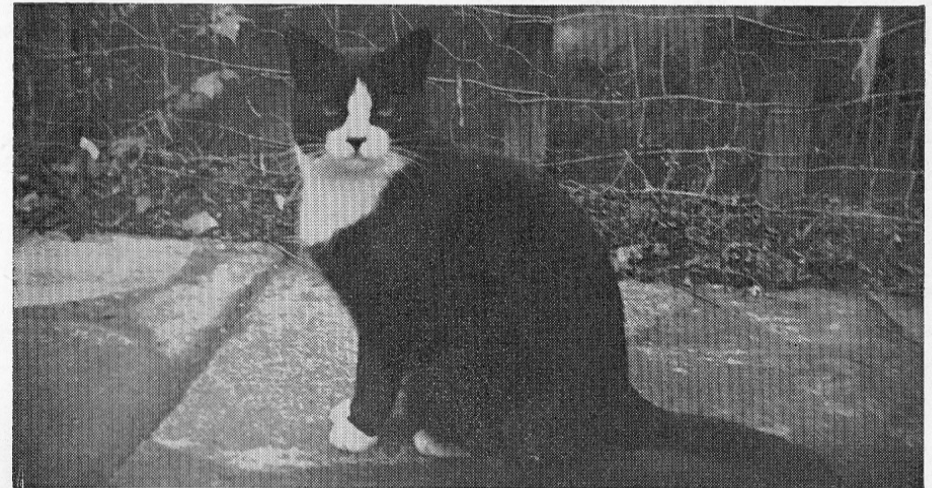
With one accord they moved into the shelter of the kitchen. The cat made straight for the dog's bed and curled up. The hedgehog took refuge under the table and the blackbird flew on to the kitchen cabinet.

None of them showed any fear of the dog, nor did he resent them. In fact, he joined the cat in his bed, at a wary distance.

When the storm had cleared I opened the door. The cat was the first to leave, followed by the blackbird which showed no fear of the cat which made no attempt to touch it. Finally the hedgehog left.

I think this is an amazing example of animal kinship during common danger.

The People Aug. 67.



42nd ANNUAL REPORT

January 1st—December 31st, 1968

Registered National Charity
Headquarters Office and Clinic:
29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS
Telephone: Slough 20173

Executive Committee

Chairman: MRS. OSYTH SHERRATT
Vice-Chairman: MRS. N. DE CLIFFORD
Hon. Treasurer: MR. A. E. PARRATT
Miss E. LEEMING
Mrs. J. A. EARNSHAW
Miss V. TROUGHTON
Mrs. B. PARRATT

Trustees:

Mrs. O. SHERRATT

Mr. A. A. STEWARD

Headquarter's Clinic:

Under Veterinary Supervision

Auditors:

MESSRS. HEMSLEY MILLER & CO.

Solicitors:

MESSRS. BARRETT & THOMPSON

Bankers:

WESTMINSTER BANK LTD. (Slough Branch)

General Secretary: Mr. A. A. STEWARD

THE OMISSION OF REPORTS FROM SOME OF OUR BRANCHES AND GROUPS IS REGRETTABLE BUT UNAVOIDABLE AND DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HEADQUARTERS' CONTROL.

INTRODUCTION

There is no need for me to go into the details of the work done by the League during the year. You will find that in the reports sent in by some of the Branches and Centres. It is a great pity that all the centres of activity do not consider their work sufficiently important to be of interest to the rest of us.

The work goes on, and in spite of branches falling by the wayside, it grows and grows. Even the simple packet of grass seed – free of course – proves an attraction and a source of further questions. There have been a number of new members through this means. We are fortunate that parts of the Press are kindly disposed towards cats and us, and we have profited by their activities. H.Q. staff has tackled the extra work nobly, and our thanks are certainly due to them.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I should like once again to thank every one of you who has done active work for the cats, so often a heart-rending occupation, and each of you who has sent us the wherewithal to carry on this work. Neither could manage without the other. With this co-operation, the League should go from useful strength to useful strength.

OSYTH SHERRATT, *Chairman*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1968 was exceptional for two particular reasons. First being the news of a large legacy and secondly the launching of a greatly extended neutering project aimed at combatting the stray and unwanted cat/kitten problem.

Our neutering service had been operating on a limited scale for a number of years building up gradually, as intended, to the point when it could give national coverage.

The news of the £60,000 legacy created just the incentive needed to jump into our stride with the neutering plans. One of the Sunday papers boosted the scheme and things really began to move. Within a few days of the article appearing in "The People" requests for helping in paying neutering fees were received from all parts of the country and by the end of the year we had made a big step in the right direction.

Knowing it to be unwise to rely too much on what one has not actually got we limited our first twelve months expenditure to what could be covered without the legacy. Events proved that this was the right thing to do because although we have got the Government Stock Certificates for the greater portion of the legacy we are, at the time of writing this report, still unable to use the "capital". There are legal matters yet to be settled. In due course it will be decided just how far we can go in our proposed free year trial period of the neutering project. This information will be given in the League's magazine when we are in a position to make a definite statement.

The A.G.M. 1968: I was very disappointed not to have been able to attend the meeting, owing to illness but our Chairman, Mrs. Osyth Sherratt and our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. A. E. Parratt, who incidentally was making his debut, added my responsibilities to theirs with great success so all was well.

Our Annual General Meetings have, with one exception, always been a success and we are fortunate in having a Committee that has been consistently reliable in its efforts on behalf of the League and its work. The progress that had been made over the years will not only prove this statement but justify the faith that members have shown in them by voting as they have done for their return to office on the occasions when election of Committees has been on the agenda.

The J. Milton Memorial Gardens/Cattery has proved a very useful accommodation centre and has, for some time now, been used to the full. Members will no doubt remember that it is situated at 10 The Close, New Malden

SECRETARY'S REPORT—continued.

but it may not have its permanent home there. With this in mind the official opening has been delayed but an announcement in this connection will be made as soon as the matter has been decided by the League's Executive Committee.

The Grace Blythe Memorial Home has not been much mentioned either in previous Reports or in the magazine. This is situated in Haslemere and has previously been referred to as "Haslemere Memorial Home – Chase Lodge Studio". It was the home of Miss A. B. Joy who will be well remembered by a number of our members but for who the past year or so has been very much indisposed and unable to continue the League's work locally which was based on these premises. Miss Joy has needed hospital treatment for the past three or four months and she will no doubt have to "retire". When this becomes official the Executive Committee will consider in what way we can best use these very adaptable premises to the advantage of the work and to perpetuate the name of the member who so kindly made it possible for the League to purchase Chase Lodge Studio. Members will be kept up to date in this matter through "The Cat".

Our illustrated brochure of Headquarters Clinic and Cattery (available on request to members) shows to what extent we have been able to cater for all the general requirements of cat welfare. Unfortunately it has to be on a limited scale because of space restrictions but nevertheless we give a service comparable with many larger establishments.

The annual "turnover" of patients, homeless and unwanted cats and kittens averages 10,000. Neutering, emergency operations, first aid, trapping, humane destruction and advice all feature in our "service". Operations are done and treatment prescribed by our Veterinary Surgeon.

As admirable as it would be to establish similar facilities wherever they are wanted it is impossible to do so for many reasons the chief of which are funds, premises and staff so whilst we have set up a proto-type service at Headquarters we expect to rely on our voucher scheme to deal with cat welfare problems in those parts of the country where we have no representation.

Despite the fact that we are unable to include the activities of all our Branches and Groups the following records are quite impressive.

Annual General Meeting

JULY 12 1969

RECORD OF CLINIC SHELTER. FIRST AID AND RESCUE WORK DURING 1968

DESCRIPTION	
Cats/Kittens received as strays or unwanted	5,168
Cats/Kittens for which homes have been found	4,267
Cats/Kittens destroyed either directly or indirectly	2,042
Cats/Kittens (Males) Neutered	5,824
Cats/Kittens (Females) Spayed	4,217
Cats/Kittens given treatment on premises or on voucher scheme or by arrangement with local veterinary surgeon	16,891
Cats/Kittens boarded by arrangement	428
Accident cases dealt with directly or indirectly	861
Cats/Kittens (stray or unwanted) collected	4,310

Our ambulance records differ considerably from those of last year because we have not now got a full time driver, but we have done a great deal of necessary work even under such circumstances.

HQ. AMBULANCE REPORT

JANUARY – DECEMBER 1968	
Stray Cats collected	92
Accident cases attended	37
Trapping requests dealt with	81
Cats collected for Homes	120
Cats collected for treatments (and returned)	216

THE ABOVE APPLY TO HEADQUARTERS CLINIC ONLY

Educational activities: For many years we have published a series of leaflets on cat welfare and hundreds of thousands of these leaflets have been distributed. Our booklet Facts about Cats now in its second edition, includes all our previously published propaganda and other items as well and we are in the process of substituting this booklet for the individual leaflets. Economy in space, time and money is effected by doing so and it is felt that an illustrated booklet is much less likely to be thrown away than a single or double page leaflet which can be mislaid or possibly scrapped. A complete change over will probably take place by the end of 1969.

We continue to publish our resale labels with illustrations and "advice" and many people use them with good results as is proved by correspondence received referring to the labels. It is quite a good form of propaganda and advice.

C.P.L. Pens: The introduction of this profitable form of advertising met with the success we hoped it would and we are grateful

to all who have responded so generously in buying these pens not only for themselves but for their friends. We are glad to be able to supply refills too. These pens were on display at the ANIMALS FAIR at which the League was represented by London Committee, Edmonton, North London and Headquarters. This annual event is always a very useful medium for meeting friends of the League and of course many others who support the various animal welfare organisations as well as the C.P.L.

To all who have so generously contributed to the appeals from Headquarters and the Branches and to the Branch Officers, members and supporters we would like to express our grateful thanks.

We know that so many of you contribute to other national organisations as well as the League and we know that there are many who are unable to do as much as they would like because of this and because of financial circumstances over which they have no control but the fact that we have made progress in all directions shows not only that the work of the League is slowly but surely becoming more widely known but that we have loyal supporters, some of very long standing, who are as determined as the Executive Committee is that the League's activities should extend over a wider area and our objects and aims on behalf of the feline world should be fulfilled.

A. A. STEWARD

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret we have to record the passing of the following members and friends: Miss D. Aitchinson, Mrs. C. M. Baker, Mrs. M. Barnes, Miss M. Booth, Miss C. Brown, Mrs. E. A. Carson, Mrs. G. Childers, Miss E. Cruickshank, Mr. L. Dawson, Mr. J. Early Smith, Miss B. Forbes-Bassett, Mrs. G. Fraser, Miss C. N. Godolphin, Miss D. Graham-Turnbull, Mrs. W. Hall, Miss R. Harrison, Miss G. Hart, Mrs. M. Hay, Miss E. Hodgson, Mrs. Hutchinson, Miss M. Ibell, Mrs. M. Ivor, Mrs. Keay, Mrs. G. Osborne Leonard, Miss N. Margetts, Miss Isa Milne, Mrs. E. M. S. Moore, Mrs. H. D. Palmer, Mrs. M. Pigou, Mrs. E. Putnam, Mrs. I. J. Richards, Mrs. M. E. Rushforth, Miss D. M. Staniland, Mrs. F. Wentworth-Gore, Mr. R. Wignell, Mrs. M. O. Wingrove, Miss Woolford, Mrs. M. Wright, Miss D. A. Young.

LEGACIES, DEEDS OF COVENANT AND BANKERS' ORDERS

LEGACIES

Legacies are invaluable to the C.P.L. and its future work. Our activities in the past have been greatly helped through those kind friends who remembered the League in their wills.

DEEDS OF COVENANT

The C.P.L. can recover income tax on all subscriptions paid under a Deed of Covenant. In subscribing in this manner you will help the League considerably.

BANKERS' ORDERS

For those who are able to pay their subscriptions by Bankers' Order it is the most convenient method for the subscriber and the League. It eliminates our having to remind our members that their subscription is due and it avoids the worry of wondering whether or not a subscription has been paid.

We shall be only too pleased to give any information that our members may require both with regard to Deed of Covenant or Bankers' Orders and will supply the necessary forms on request. Please address enquiries to: The General Secretary, Cats' Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

BRANCH REPORTS

CHELMSFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Sec. Mrs. Jean Middlemiss

As each year passes, we breathe a sigh of relief and say "thank goodness—next year cannot possibly be as bad." But without fail, each year brings more problems than ever before and this last year was no exception. We cope, but on looking back, we wonder how we ever did. An all time record of 474 cats and kittens passed through our hands to new homes. All homes are carefully vetted beforehand and then have to be checked again afterwards. Those cats that are old enough are neutered before going, but kittens all have to be contacted again when older, and arrangements made for neutering and possibly helping with transport to and from vets. Practically always it involves loaning a basket too. So it does not take much imagination to realise how many telephone calls, and callers at the door this involves. Mrs. Middlemiss in. Mr. Middlemiss says that with so many people passing through the house at all times of the day and night, it is rather like living in a railway station! On top of this, of course, are phone calls and callers at the door regarding stray cats, somewith kittens, lost cats, advice needed on boarding kennels and vets etc. We have had phone calls as early as 6 a.m. and callers at the door as late as midnight.

Life would be a lot easier too, if only we could have our own shelter. Boarding all our "unwants" in a private boarding kennels is a very expensive item, even though we are fortunate enough to pay a somewhat reduced rate for each cat. As hard as we work to raise funds we are always in debt; we could obviously cut the cost a lot by doing it ourselves—if only we had the initial cost of the actual cattery building, we could cope with the running expenses ourselves. This is a pipe dream I suppose at the moment, but we would be able to help so many more needy cats which at the moment we have regretfully to turn away. Our hearts are willing, but our bank account is not!

In the last year we have been able to restore 35 lost pets to their owners, including two which had been lost six months, and "Misty" (who breaks all our records) who had been lost two years!

Our money raising efforts over the year showed a marked and very encouraging increase. We were especially pleased by the response to a few seconds appeal by our Secretary on Anglia Television which raised over £80. Our four annual "Fairs" (Easter, "Strawberry", September and Christmas)

raised a total of £436, of which more than £100 was the result of our Christmas Draw. Our Saturday Market Stalls raised £106 and Coffee Evenings £54. We were "down" on Jumble Sales compared with former years, making only £46. However, since we sort through all the jumble and extract the choicer items for our Saturday Sales, this is not really surprising! Our small regular Whist Drives raised £44.

Our money raising efforts for the year totalled £988. Very gratifying results to our small Committee and loyal handful of helpers, but not nearly enough to cover our expenses. We shall all strive our utmost to better these results in 1969.

DERBY AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Derby & District's first A.G.M. was held on the 29th April 1968. Looking back on our first year's work, it is evident that much has been done to alleviate the distress and suffering of many cats and kittens and brought C.P.L. into the limelight in this area where many people had never even heard of us before.

Our Committee and many of the members are hard working, and in view of the fact that most of us have daytime jobs, we find ourselves very short of time, hence this is the first report from Derby.

Homes have been found for 90 kittens and 30 adult cats, membership has risen from three original members to 70. We were very interested to read Birmingham's report as, like them, we have no shelter and have to rely on local kennels for our cats until homes are found. Much rescue work has been done, which includes the all too common report of mother cat and kittens left abandoned in the hedges particularly during the peak holiday season. Considering that homes have been found for almost every cat and kitten proves that somewhere there is a home waiting.

The Committee and members of Derby and District Branch are delighted with their first year's work and we hope that our second year will prove even more successful and rewarding. This is a very brief report, frankly we have little time for clerical work, we are too busy "out in the field" but I think this report proves we have not been idle, and proves we have done a tremendous amount of work. We hope that next year's report will prove to be even more successful.

EDMONTON GROUP

Since our last annual report the scope of our work has grown enormously. Speyings and Neuterings throughout the year have averaged thirty a week.

People contact us from near and far seeking advice on Feline Problems, and we are pleased to find a growing awareness of cats in general, and their welfare, at least from some sections of the public. Sadly though, many people are cruel and indifferent to the problems of stray cats and accidents involving cats. A telephone call to us one Sunday afternoon concerned a cat alleged to have been strangled with a length of stout cord. We sped to the flats, and found a beautiful black male cat with thick cord knotted tightly around its throat. Needless to say the poor animal was dead. Residents of the flats were quite concerned about the cat, but nobody knew where it came from, except that children were seen pulling it along. Although there were no other outward signs of injury, a Post Mortem by our Veterinary Surgeon revealed that the cat was killed in a road accident and the cord tied about its throat after death.

Unfortunately, Pet Stealing continues to rear its ugly head. It has been very prevalent locally, and no fewer than 47 cats have been reported to us as missing. A large proportion of these cats were neutered, so mating instinct cannot be blamed for leading them astray. On our instigation, our local paper has carried front page articles warning animal lovers to be on their guard. Need we ask you to be as alert and watchful in your own area, and to do your utmost to instil into others the seriousness of Pet Stealing. The heartache of Owners of missing pets, especially lonely Old Age Pensioners, is dreadful to see.

We are still helping needy Old Age Pensioners by supplying food parcels for their cats, and our list is steadily increasing. However, we will continue to help whenever possible, as these cats are greatly loved pets and we feel that some Pensioners might well go without themselves in order to give their pets the best.

Cats and kittens sheltered and found homes for this year number 511. They have been all colours and descriptions, large and small.

Three kittens were found by some Dustmen on our local Refuse Tip in an old birdcage one cold Saturday morning. The general public are allowed free access to the Tip on Saturday mornings for the purpose of disposing of unwanted rubbish, garden refuse, etc., so, presumably, some brute thought it a clever idea to dump three defenceless kittens also. So it continues, a constant battle must be waged against cruelty and indifference, stupidity and ignorance. Please will you help us in our fight?

We always need jumble and any saleable articles that you can spare, and blankets for the cats and kittens.

Perhaps any Members who are unable to have a cat of their own, for one reason or another, would care to sponsor one of ours? They are all loveable Characters - "Fluffy" a long haired Tabby aged almost 23 years, fond of her food, but very particular 'Mickey', Black and White aged 18 years, not fussy but likes a lot. 'Lady' aged 16 years, all Black, and all that her name implies, likes fish most of all. 'Goldie', a Tortoiseshell, aged 10 years, not fussy but always ready to eat. 'Sailor', who was very nearly drowned, aged about 8 years, very robust and healthy with an appetite to match, definitely not fussy; a very handsome Tabby and White. All are worthy cats, and all have a sad history. Please sponsor one if you can, or perhaps you might like to sponsor a bed in our Maternity Ward - our special Mother and Baby Unit.

We are having another Open Day on July 12th, so please write for an Invitation if you would like to come along, we shall be pleased to see you.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Most Sincerely all who help us to help the cats, Members and Supporters who send us jumble and make articles for our Bazaars, and those who help man the stalls. Also, our Veterinary Surgeon for his willing co-operation at all times. We must also thank Mr Steward and Headquarters' Committee for their help and support which is always forthcoming.

LEICESTER & LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

At the beginning of 1968 the Leicester and Oakham Branch of The Cats' Protection Branch and Tailwavers disbanded, and not until July was the Leicester and Loughborough Branch formed, so we have been a League for less than six months, although cats and kittens have come to us all the year, and have had to be accommodated and fed. The Officers are:-

Mr. H. G. Cooper	Chairman
Mr. W. Linwood-Wright	Treasurer
Mrs. M. Bakewell	Secretary

Mrs. M. Linwood-Wright, Mrs. L. Levin, Mr. and Mrs. Willerton are on the Committee.

The disbandment left us very short of helpers, especially car drivers. At the moment Mrs. Molly Linwood-Wright, who works for the welfare of cats and kittens with no thought of time, meals for herself or anything which would hinder the rescue of a cat, is the only car owner-driver in the Leicester Branch. Leicester is a big city, with large areas of council estates scattered around the outskirts.

LEICESTER & LOUGHBOROUGH—cont.

There was no correspondence, files or other paper-work handed down from the other committee, which would have helped us to make a smoother and quicker start. Mr. Cooper remembered people who had helped with donations in the past, and to whom we wrote and explained our position. This effort yielded £108, an uplift for us which was greatly appreciated.

Our jumble sale in October raised £23. We were all dismayed at the amount of pilfering which was done while we were busy selling.

The Christmas Bazaar, which helped us to make £65, was advertised well in "The Leicester Mercury" evening paper, but next time large bright posters are going to be posted on the board outside the Hall where it was held, to give us quite a lot more publicity. We are also going to book the Hall earlier in the year, so that we can have the Fayre on Saturday, instead of a week-day.

The Raffle, apparently previously always held early in November, was almost overlooked so we had almost no time to post tickets and receive back the counterfoils and money. The one to be held in June 1969 is going to be organised much earlier, in order that lots more helpers can be contacted to assist us, and more addresses found to which we can send the Raffle tickets. However, swift hard work made £175 for the cats.

Mrs. Linwood-Wright closed her first shop, from which rummage was sold, because it was too expensive to run, and, after a lot of negotiating and form filling, opened another one nearby, which was cheaper to rent and more economical with electricity and rates.

Mrs. Levin, of Loughborough, has attended very patiently all the year round to the needs of the frightened and dismayed cats and kittens which were taken to her Cattery. Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Manger have also been very good with them. Mr. Cooper has made many trips to the Leicester Town Hall for permission to hold Raffles, and has booked various Halls for our activities.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Linwood-Wright is very efficient with our accounts and banking transactions.

LONDON COMMITTEE

The news of the scheme just put forward by Mr. Steward for the increase in neutering through vouchers has brought great pleasure to all the London Committee.

Our work is always concerned with encouraging neutering and specially speying. It is just twenty-two years since we made the

first offer - that we would pay for the neutering of any cat or kitten whose owner would promise a good home. At that time members of the C.P.L. were not entirely converted to speying, and we had to campaign for a very long while to get the idea accepted.

It will be with great relief that we will pass over this part of our work to H.Q. The rest of our work goes on as usual. The advice bureau which we run willy nilly is still in demand daily and sometimes hourly.

We have answered questions varying from how to bring up a cat as a vegetarian to whether it is truly lucky to hear a cat sneeze three times.

We have been asked about diets and grooming, and how to travel with a cat, and how to keep a cat at home, how to choose a kitten and (very important I think) how to cherish a very old cat. We have been asked how to encourage a cat to make friends with a dog, a horse, some goats, and the best housing for a pair of Scottish wild cats.

And, talking of wild cats, we have been seriously asked to consider a scheme for training cats to race (this has been abandoned! and another, not practical, for founding an island of cats with their owners.

We never give advice on veterinary problems, nor on legal ones, though we always help enquiries to get the best professional advice.

We have continued our help for elderly people who want to keep their cats. We have four pensioners, for whom we pay the keep of a cat, so that they can enjoy having a pet, although their means would not otherwise allow it. And we pay veterinary bills for several more old age pensioners when their cats need attention.

We have continued through the year the scheme known as "Christmas Dinners for Cats" through which we send food and someone to give it to cats left on business premises during holidays, specially at Christmas and Easter.

During the year we have sent representatives to meet members of other societies for informal talks about our problems, specially of course cat-stealing. Our representatives have visited eight new cat-boarding establishments, to see what is being done and to exchange ideas of the best way of organising the keeping of cats in numbers.

The three big problems with which we have been concerned are immunisation against cat flu, the pill or injection for preventing kittens, and painless destruction. We try to keep informed of all advance made in any of these fields, for we think that they are of urgent importance for the well-being of all cats.

All our active members have had to work very hard indeed, and the only prospect we can offer them is that they will continue to do so during the coming year!

Financially, it has not been a good year. Donations are less, funds are shrinking. We rely almost entirely on the big bazaars to bring in the money which is essential if we are to carry on. So we hope our members will continue to support the bazaars in every way.

NEWBURY AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Branch has done its best to help as many cats and kittens as possible as we become more known we receive more requests for help—173 cats and kittens have been placed in good homes. This does not include those owners who have had help to place their cats or kittens, by receiving names of those whose needs they might be able to fulfill. 53 cats and kittens have been neutered or spayed, this again does not include those, who through our persuasion have had this attended to. In spite of very bad weather Mrs. Penglase, one of our Committee members had a most successful and enjoyable jumble sale which made over £30 at Yattendon. The Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire gave us a stall at their show and again in spite of very bad weather, we made over £20. The Siamese Chocolate Point Cat Club donated, £5.5.0d., also the Oxford Cat Club £5 to our funds.

We are more than grateful to Headquarters for giving us £100—a most generous gift.

Some of our cats have made news, like the little ginger cat who was found (quite by luck) abandoned in Savernake Forrest in a pit with a brick tied to it. This was taken in, but in the end died. The Vet could not quite tell us why. Miss Mumford had an S.O.S. for a blood donor, for a Siamese cat who was very ill. The Siamese recovered, the black cat was none the worse, he is now in a very good home in Southend-on-Sea.

We have also been instrumental in uniting a cat to its home after 5 months wandering.

During the summer the requests for help are most depressing, as one just has not the power to help all.

A most successful A.G.M. was held on Newbury on May 10th 25 supporters turned up and gave most generously to the funds. A very pleasurable afternoon closed with a very nice tea given by one of the members.

We are more than grateful for all the amount of help we have received in the way of transport, taking in the odd cat, finding homes, advertising, visiting cats, etc., but our local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector never fails us when we ask for help.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

The year 1968 at the Shelter has followed the pattern to which we have become accustomed—reasonably quiet times during the first three months of the year, hectic work during Spring and Summer easing off during the last three months of the year.

We have, during the year, taken into the Shelter 2732 cats, an increase over the intake for 1967 which, in itself, was more than we had taken in for several years. Of this large number, good homes were found for all too few.

Are we right to continue to take in so many stray cats when so few good homes are available? We have pondered upon this for so long, and have come to the conclusion that we have no alternative. If we did not take them in, the poor strays, would be left to their miserable existence on the streets where they would breed more strays. Is it not better that they should be brought to us, even though they may later be humanely destroyed if good homes for them cannot be found. If any one feels that our conclusions are wrong, we should be glad if they would write to us with their views.

Many of the cats we take in are the result of trapping operations and we are pleased to report that 1968 saw a great clearance of the Euston Station colony of strays. Two of our helpers have, for the past three years, visited the site regularly with traps, enduring cold weather, wet weather and the insults of humans but gradually have achieved their object, clearing what was formerly a large colony of semi-wild strays.

Several other sites have also been cleared during the year and at the beginning of the current year, trapping is in progress at three other areas. We have received many requests to clear sites all over London, but have had to refuse. With two helpers engaged during all their spare time on two large sites and with only one other helper willing to undertake trapping, we must confine such activities to our own area.

Our neutering campaign has continued and we have during the year arranged for the neutering of 703 cats, mainly females. This side of our activities is under the direction and control of one committee member and entails the collection of cats from their homes, taking them to the Veterinary surgeon, collecting them later and redelivering them to their owners. In addition, a very large amount of clerical work is involved in the arrangements and we thank our member who carries out the task so efficiently.

We have also during the year assisted several people to pay for veterinary treatment of their cats, people who could not otherwise have afforded such treatment.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH—continued.

Our Shelter staff, Mrs. Dempsey and "Daisy" Neary, have, as usual, found some humour amid the sadness of their work. There was the incident of the two small boys who knocked loudly on the door one Sunday afternoon. Their request, when answered, was "Please, Miss, have you got a muvver?" The request was understood when it was noticed that one carried a three day old kitten on his arm. We did have a "muvver" and the little mite, abandoned so young on a building site, grew into a strong cat who now rules the household in a very good home.

On another occasion, a lady telephoned to enquire if we would take in a beautiful Chinese cat. We said we certainly would and waited, with excitement, to see how a Chinese cat differed from our own variety. We were sadly disappointed when the plainest tortoiseshell cat arrived. The caller, however, was not deterred. "It must be a Chinese cat—a Chinese lady gave it to me" she said.

Despite the "Good Homes Guaranteed" advertisements of some pet shops we have continued to take kittens from our local pet shops and during the year, we took in 392 kittens from them. We do this to encourage such shops to accept all kittens offered to them since it is our experience that if pet shops refuse kittens, these kittens are promptly dumped in a nearby street.

During 1968, we have had to rebuild part of a flank wall and chimney stack at the Shelter, due to a "Dangerous Structure" notice. Unfortunately, the notice was served and the work done during our busiest time, the height of Summer, but both Mrs. Dempsey and Miss Neary willingly gave up their Summer holidays to see us through a very difficult period.

This report is our one opportunity of thanking all those who have done so much for us during the year. Our auditor, by one of those abstruse calculations of which only accountants are capable, has decided that if he worked for us without a fee, we should benefit and he would be better off by not having to pay income tax on the fee, so that we now have the services of a professional man of the highest standing without any charge. We are most grateful to him for this fine piece of arithmetical juggling and for all the work he does for us.

We are also most grateful to the member who pays for the regular attendance of a Veterinary surgeon at the Shelter. She has done this for many years and we sincerely hope that she realises how much her generosity is appreciated by us.

We also thank all those who have helped us in so many different ways, some by finding good homes for our strays and others by giving their help at the Shelter and at our sales. If there are others who would like to help us but do not know how, we suggest:

Seeking good homes for our cats and kittens

Offering help at the Shelter during Bank holidays and other holiday periods.

Helping at our sales.

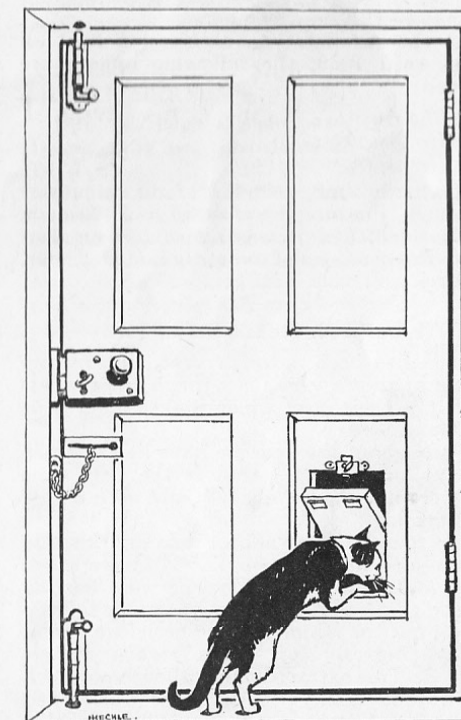
Collecting clean jumble for us.

Collecting goods for sale at our Bazaars.

Lastly, we express our thanks to our Chairman and Treasurer, Miss Hutt, who has for so long kept our finances in order and who, in what little spare time is left to her, has taken on the responsibility for our Christmas card production and sales. From our accounts, it will be seen that our sales of cards rise steadily each year, and we are grateful to all who support us by buying them.

We enter 1969 with the hope that the year will see some improvement in the lot of poor stray cats.

THE ORIGINAL CAT DOOR



NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

We have had quite a busy year, with the usual batch of neutering and spaying being undertaken and unwanted cats and kittens found good homes.

Our cat shelter has been full most of the year, and all the cats and kittens brought in found good homes. One pathetic case which was brought to the attention of our member who has the shelter in her garden, was the discovery by a local farmer of a cat in the bottom of the hedge in one of his fields. The mother was feeding four of the kittens, which she had retrieved from a newspaper parcel tied up with string (the fifth kitten was dead inside the paper). She took them all into the shelter and nursed them—she had a great deal of trouble with the kittens eyes, probably due to the very wet weather we were having (it was in the month of August). However, she managed to get them all better and found them homes.

A case of abandonment of two kittens by their mother was brought to the attention of one of our members. These kittens, both female, one black and one white, were found in her Doctor's garden and were hand reared from one week old by his receptionist. Spaying was undertaken by the Branch and homes found for them.

As we are only a small Branch, an all out effort is to be made during the coming year to recruit new members.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 19th April 1969, the following officers were elected:

Chairman: Mrs. D. Brice-Webb
Hon. Secretary: }
Hon. Treasurer } Miss M. J. Marriott

As both our secretary and treasurer resigned, due to the size of our Branch, we decided, and it was agreed, to amalgamate the positions of secretary and treasurer.

SOUTH LONDON RESCUE CENTRE

1968 has been a tough year, but we are living in an era which is a tough one for cats and it is their need which makes our rescue centre necessary.

Throughout the year we have had one pen vacant for one week, that is the only time we were not completely full, and with a long waiting list.

We found 103 homes for cats and kittens, of these adult cats were 42. We have taken in several cats for people who were moving or going overseas, or otherwise unable to keep a pet, but the majority have been stray cats, many probably left behind when owners moved. This extraordinary callousness which allows the family "pet" to be abandoned without a thought is still almost unbelievable

to me. I cannot get inside the mind of a person capable of doing such a thing. If I had the money, I would take advertising space in all the property and estate journals to remind anyone moving house that some arrangements must be made for the care of the cat, and to let them know the fate to which it is otherwise left.

Since the start of the Milton Memorial Garden, we have had cats which were living wild on derelict sites. Many of these were not at all wild by nature, and soon settled in and were off to new homes, but there were some really shy and timid ones, and we are still looking out for some way of accommodating them for the time necessary to make them happy. They are a problem, but we shall continue to do our best for them.

The general health of our cats during the year has been good. We have had some illness, mainly kittens. One entire litter died within a few days of birth, but this sort of weakness must occur occasionally when so many of our cats have been undernourished for a long while before coming to us. We have not had any cat put to sleep during the year.

We do not undertake boarding, but some of our "own" cats have come back for holidays. Rufus paid us a visit, looking very handsome.

Our work through the big hospitals, for the pets of solitary people who have to go into hospital is on the increase. We have been asked to take cats for a few weeks to allow invalids to go on holiday, and we have been glad to do this: we think they deserve it.

Rising costs have hit us very badly, we have several times been reduced to almost nothing in the bank, with big food bills coming in. All this side of the work is one long, constant see-saw, we never have much money, but in a wonderful way, when things are desperate, someone suddenly organises a jumble sale, or gives us a coffee morning or holds a bring-and-buy tea-party, and so we are tided over.

Countess Grudzinska has been our greatest help throughout the whole year. Without her help I do not know how the Rescue Centre would carry on. She has found homes for our cats, and taken them into the homes, and visited them afterwards. As well as that important work, she has organised the big Autumn bazaar and jumble sales for us, and in very many other ways has helped on all the work. She is the person who is called on in every emergency, and she always copes.

The Micheline and James Memorial fund, administered by Mrs. McCormac has kept us going often, the regular gifts of food and money which are specially for our "old uns" have made a big difference to their comfort.

There is not room for a list of our benefactors, we can count on the help of many people

S. L. RESCUE CENTRE—continued.

who may not be very rich, but who never fail to send us a small sum monthly or weekly.

These make up much of our income, and we wish we could add to their number, for this regular help is of great value to us. The "team" who help us at all our sales and bazaars are important people in the maintaining of the Rescue Centre. We ask them to work very hard indeed, and they never fail us. The proceeds of our bazaars, jumble sales and markets make the greater part of our income. Our supporters who so kindly send us stock for the stalls make these activities possible and we do thank them.

We have had some odd cats through the Centre during the year. I suppose Minnie-Ha-Ha is the worst, I think just about the worst we have ever had for bad behaviour. Her wicked exploits would fill a book. We had a wonderful Christmas present of rabbit-dinner for all the cats, of course I made a mistake in taking it round after I had changed into a decent tidy frock. A little darling cat called Rickie was so delighted that he grabbed the greater part of his rabbit in his mouth, jumped onto my shoulder and lovingly dropped it down my neck I had to change and have a bath before I had my Christmas dinner. We still remember the occasion when we laid out 9 meals for 9 cats, were called to the door for a crisis, and came back to find a small cat called Angel and one little kitten had managed to eat the lot. And they seemed to expect their own share when we had relaid the table.

We have discussed the idea of having an open day, when our friends could come to see the cats they have helped to rescue. We think that we are rather off the beaten track for many, but if any of our supporters would like us to do this, please let us know, and we will start to make plans.

Alternatively, we could have a meeting in London to tell everyone about the work and the cats we have saved. We would be glad of suggestions, indeed ideas and suggestions are always very welcome, I will be delighted to hear from anyone with any point to raise.

SUSSEX BRANCH

We can look back on a very active year, and a satisfactory one with regard to funds, owing to the fact that one of our members left us a legacy of £480, and we received with gratitude £100 from Headquarters. At Christmas we had numerous letters from members enclosing donations, and some containing news of cats adopted from us.

During the year 78 cats and kittens have

been placed in good homes, and we have paid for 57 neuterings.

We have worked in conjunction with the local P.D.S.A. Vet from whom we frequently receive a call asking if we can save the life of a cat or kitten that has been brought in to be put to sleep. In most cases we can and do, either by finding it a home straight away, or by sending it up to Cat Haven our Shelter at Fairlight.

We have taken in numerous stray and abandoned cats and kittens, and in every case have been able to place them in good homes. Many of these cats are left behind when their owners move house and are reported to us by neighbours.

We have made quite a number of new members by sending out leaflets asking each member to recruit another.

Events for raising funds during the year consisted of three Coffee Evenings making a total of £85.11s.0d., and our Cats' Christmas Bazaar where we made a profit of £774.14s.0d. We had a stall at the Grand Charities Fair which made £9.14.0d. and we enrolled several new members. We were invited to attend the Bexhill Cat Club Cat Picture Show, and there we also enrolled some new members and received several donations.

We look forward to another year of hard but rewarding work, and we thank all who support us in our efforts to alleviate the sufferings of unwanted cats and kittens.

ULSTER BRANCH

This has been a busy year for the Ulster Branch. It has also been an eventful one. In January Mr. and Mrs. Miller took up residence at 147 Clifton Park Avenue and settled down with a minimum of fuss. It was no easy task to cope with the aftermath of the previous months of near-chaos but Mrs. Miller tackled the situation serenely and competently and soon became the friend of cats and humans. In addition to her work with the cats she has taken a lively interest in our social and fund-raising activities and has dispensed endless cups of tea to all and sundry. We want her to know that we are deeply grateful.

March brought the resignation of Mr. J. King Carson who had been Honorary Treasurer of the Ulster Branch for ten years. During this period he carried out his duties with great efficiency and was responsible for launching the successful Appeal in connection with the opening of the Shelter. While Mr. Carson coped with money Mrs. Carson was busy making enormous quantities of jam, lemon-curd and other saleable articles, much in demand at various fund-raising efforts. We thank them both and

are glad to know that Mrs. Carson will continue to provide delicious marmalade while Mr. Carson, who is now our President, will still be closely linked with the Branch in an official capacity. Mr. Carson's successor, Mr. James Montgomery, had only been a few months in office when pressure of business and serious illness following made it necessary for him to retire and now Mr. Ian Parker has taken over the task of coping with money matters.

In April we were invited to have a stall at the Annual Cat Show run by the Siamese Cat Club in Ulster. We gladly availed ourselves of this opportunity and our Stall created a lot of interest and gained us several new members while our collecting box was filled.

An event of outstanding interest took place in May when we were delighted to welcome Mrs. de Clifford. On a gloriously sunny afternoon she officially "declared open" the Norah Wilson Isolation Unit, and in the evening she spoke at a General meeting to a capacity audience. Afterwards she answered questions put to her by members

Mrs. Wilson with more time now for stamps, has had a good year but hopes friends will

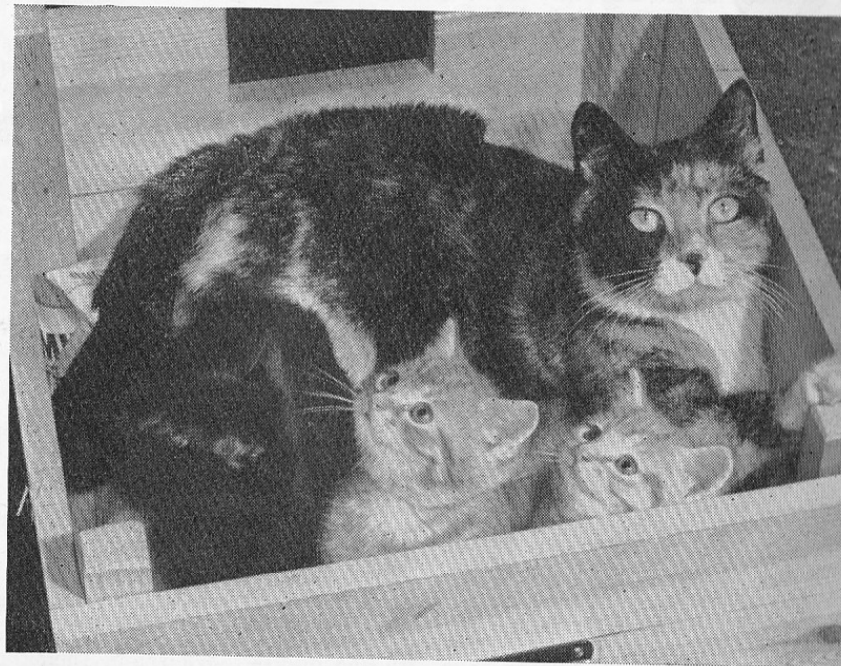
keep on sending her parcels and packages so that 1969 may be even better.

All the usual activities were engaged in. Jumble Sales, A White Elephant Sale, a Ballot, A coffee evening all helped to swell the funds. To everyone who organised these and who helped with them we extend our thanks, as well as to the many people who continue to give voluntary help at the shelter. We would dearly like a few more folk to come along to the Cattery occasionally, even if they only petted the cats a bit and perhaps did a spot of grooming.

We are grateful to the anonymous donor who presented us with a cat trap which has already been put to good use and I would also like to refer to several extremely generous donations, two of them for a specific purpose, of which more will be heard later.

Inevitably, during the year we have lost several members through death, but many new members have joined and we hope they will enjoy belonging to what could be called a fellowship of cat lovers.

And now, a look ahead. In 1969 we celebrate our 21st birth. We hope all members will help to make it a truly memorable year.



BIRMINGHAM: *

Miss J. P. Scriven,
83, Cranbrook Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham 21.

BOURNEMOUTH:

Miss A. Sydenham,
59, King's Road,
Bournemouth, Hants.

CANTERBURY: Affil. to C.P.L.: *

Miss M. W. Paine,
37, Beverley Road,
Canterbury, Kent.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT: *

Mrs. J. Middlemiss,
335, Springfield Road,
Chelmsford, Essex.

COVENTRY: *

Mrs. P. Skinner,
3, Ridgeway Avenue,
Styvechale, Coventry.

DERBY and DISTRICT:

Mrs. M. A. Norton,
24, Sevenoaks Avenue,
Mackworth Estate, Derby.

DOVER:

Mrs. M. Smalley,
46, Alder Road,
Folkestone, Kent.

DUBLIN:

Mrs. S. Connolly,
Leicester Avenue,
Rathgar, Dublin,
Eire.

EDMONTON: *

Mrs. C. Walledge,
39, Oxford Road,
Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

GLOSSOP and DISTRICT: *

Miss Wilson,
Cowbrook, Glossop,
Derbyshire.

GREAT AMWELL and DISTRICT:

Mrs. M. Jones,
376, Ware Road,
Hailey, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

Mrs. Kent,
Cheviott Cottage,
St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight.

LEICESTER and LOUGHBOROUGH:

Mrs. M. Bakewell,
211 Anstey Lane,
Leicester.

LONDON COMMITTEE: *

Mrs. de Clifford,
12, The Close,
New Malden, Surrey.

MANCHESTER:

Mr. A. Thompson,
13 Gawsworth Avenue,
East Didsbury,
Manchester 20.

NEWBURY and DISTRICT: *

Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw,
Curridge,
Newbury, Berks.

NORTH LONDON: *

Mrs. M. Davies,
435, Caledonian Road,
London, N.7.

NOTTINGHAM:

Miss P. C. Brabyn,
25B, Newcastle Drive,
The Park,
Nottingham, NG7 1AA.

OAKHAM AND DISTRICT:

Mrs. P. Ilves,
1, Penn Street,
Oakham, Rutland.

SOUTHAMPTON: *

Mrs. Picot,
22 Cobden Crescent,
Bitterne Park,
Southampton.

SUSSEX: *

Mrs. H. G. Perry,
35, Pevensey Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

ULSTER: *

Miss E. R. McKee,
92a, Earlswood Road,
Belfast 4. Ireland.

WALSALL:

Miss R. Nash,
25, Wolverhampton Street,
Walsall, Staffs.

WEST CORNWALL: *

Mrs. K. Beesley,
Cathlowena,
Cusgarne Catteries,
Cusgarne,
Truro, Cornwall.