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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



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AUGUST 1949

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 8

AUGUST 1949

IN PRAISE OF SIMON

WE join this month in singing the praise of Simon, the ship's cat of the gallant Amethyst, who has been in the news so prominently that surely he must be the most publicised cat of all time.

Simon is just an ordinary black and white fellow living—as so many cats do—an active and happy life in good company at sea. Fate destined him to be a member of the Amethyst's crew and as such he shared in their adventures under the Communist guns on the Yangtse river. When a shell hit the captain's cabin he was wounded in several places by flying shrapnel, but the wounds fortunately were not serious and Simon very soon licked himself into shape again. He had an important job on hand—a date with the enemy below decks.

Members of the crew have testified that Simon was a real hero throughout the many weary weeks their ship was under Communist detention. Food supplies ran short and the depredations of rats became a real menace, particularly when the ship's supply of poison ran out.

Simon stuck to his self-imposed task of guarding the precious food supplies and, quite apart from the saboteur rats his presence scared away, his bag averaged at least one a day. The ship's C.O., Lt.-Commander J. S. Kearns, highly recommended him for his valuable services and Petty Officer William Freeman has testified that Simon “worked overtime with splendid results.”

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Views and opinions expressed in the editorial pages are not necessarily those held by the Editor.*

It is wonderful news for catdom that the proud record of Simon is likely to receive special recognition. A cable of congratulation was sent him by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Allied Forces Mascot Club, which was formed during the war to record exploits of animals and birds on active service. And as we go to press with this issue it appears likely that Simon will be the first cat to receive the Dickin medal—the animal Victoria Cross.

My information is that the award will be made if the C.O. of the Amethyst recommends it. There are 53 holders of the Dickin Medal—dogs, horses, pigeons, etc. Simon, we shall all hope, will be the first of the felines to appear in this honoured company.

Finally for this month, whilst on the subject of recognition and reward "for services rendered," I would like to include the special item of news concerning one of my most valued contributors, Mrs. Joan Thompson, who has accepted an invitation to judge in America in January next.

I have watched with great pleasure the growing interest of American Fanciers in the rehabilitation of the British Fancy and their eagerness to have news of events and personalities from what is still to them "the home of cat breeding." Particularly do they appear to enjoy the diary feature written each month by Mrs. Thompson. It seems fitting, therefore, that she will now be going out as our ambassador.

Louis Wain, the famous artist, blazed the trail for us to America in 1908. Twenty-three years later, Mrs. G. Campbell-Fraser went out to judge a two-day show held in Connecticut. Now Mrs. Thompson will be crossing the Atlantic with a wealth of experience as Fancier and all-round judge and the occasion will, I warrant, pay dividends all round in the form of enhanced goodwill and closer relationship.

EDITOR

STOP PRESS—Later news makes it possible for us to confirm that Simon of the Amethyst will be the first cat V.C. The necessary recommendation has been made by the C.O. of the ship. Simon's medal ribbon has been sent out to him together with an elastic collar for him to wear. It is hoped to arrange a presentation ceremony when the ship returns home.—Ed.

Our front cover picture has been selected from a number submitted by M. J. Marolle of Paris, who was a successful exhibitor at the last show of the Cat Club de Paris. M. Marolle specializes in Blue Shorthairs and the handsome pair of 6-months' old kittens bear his well-known affix "de Trevee."

Steward ! Steward !!

A cat show is largely dependent for its success on the services of a panel of efficient and painstaking judges. These experts in turn have to rely a great deal on the attentive co-operation of their stewards. Our contributor, MRS. ELSIE HART, organiser of one of the most popular events in the cat world—the Siamese Cat Club Championship Show—is well qualified to give advice on the job of stewarding and all it involves.

WITH the arrival of another show season there are doubtless many cat enthusiasts who would like to try their hand at stewarding for one of the judges at forthcoming shows. A few hints on this important job may therefore prove helpful at this stage.

The first thing is to be on time at the hall so that you may have everything ready for your judge before he or she arrives. Be sure to wear an overall, preferably white, with one or two good pockets, and not, as I once saw in a show hall, street clothes complete with a fox fur! Starched cuffs are useful to prevent scratches.

You should bring with you a pencil, a small bottle of disinfectant, an iodine pencil and a thick pair of chamois leather or other strong gloves, light coloured if possible. Do not wear the gloves unless you have a really vicious exhibit to deal with. Cats dislike gloves and are inclined to be nervous of them, and a few soothing words and a tickle under the chin will usually calm a fractious animal. Of course, if an exhibit really shows fight, that is the time to don the gloves.

On arrival at the show hall get your table ready. You will need two towels, one soaked in disinfectant and the other dry, and if you can find one, an enamel bowl with water and soap. When you have collected these, guard them with your life until judging starts. Stewards' tables have a little habit of getting whisked away if one's back is turned! Just before judging commences run your eye over the pens to see if any distinguishing marks have been left therein. They should, of course, be removed.

Handling

Open the pen door and stroke the cat gently. You will usually find it sits facing you. Turn it round so that the back is towards the door, place one hand under the belly and with the other holding the hindquarters, lift it through the pen door *backwards*. Do not grab the animal by the scruff of the neck and drag it towards the door. Most cats object to being hauled out in this manner and Siamese will certainly not tolerate it!

The result of this treatment will be that the feet are placed firmly on the floor of the pen or



"The big moment" at a Cat Show when the Best in Show exhibit (in this instance a Chinchilla kitten) is paraded before an admiring group of judges and show officials.

caught in the wire and you will not be able to get the cat out at all. If the exhibit is really vicious you will have to hold it by the neck to prevent being bitten, but in doing so, always place the other hand underneath to take its weight.

Really bad-tempered cats are rare. Spitting and swearing generally mean that they are just nervous and scared. A little stroking and coaxing will often work wonders. Siamese have a characteristic of "talking" when the pen door is opened. It is their intention to intimidate you, so take no notice. Take your time and do not hurry.

Having got the cat out, place it on the table for your judge to see. Hold it unobtrusively until you are told to return it to the pen. Be on the watch in case it makes a move to escape. On returning it to the pen be careful it does not turn suddenly and give you a playful tap with claws outstretched just to register its disapproval of the proceedings!

This is where starched cuffs are useful.

If a cat *does* get loose and gives battle, put on your gloves and endeavour to secure it wherever you can get a hold, afterwards transferring the left hand to the scruff of the neck and with the right hand holding the front legs, tuck the hindquarters under your right arm and press firmly against your body. The cat cannot escape and this is a good way of carrying it through the show hall. Alternatively, in the case of a difficult animal, hold the scruff of the neck with the right hand, and the hind legs with the left. With either method you cannot get bitten and with the latter the front paws will just claw the air. If you do get bitten apply T.C.P. or iodine at once.

Wipe the table with the disinfected towel after each exhibit and shake a little disinfectant on your hands now and then, particularly when handling studs. Bring your judge the bowl and

soap before a start is made with the kitten classes.

Do not give your opinion of any exhibit unless specially asked to do so. Above all, do not talk to the judge or your fellow stewards. If your judge asks for your opinion, give it, but otherwise say nothing.

Pay attention to your judge and take an intelligent interest in the variety he or she is judging. You may be exhibiting in other classes, but do not rush away to see if you have won. Your job is to remain with your judge and assist in every way possible.

The Judging Book

After your judge has finished the class you will be given two slips which you should take to the table. See that they are both signed, and if the class is a championship one, that 1st and Champion are against the winner's number. If your judge is a novice, be on the watch that he or she does not cross-judge. This means reversing the placings of the same exhibits in the classes following the open.

Best in Show

On finishing the classes your judge will decide on his or her nomination for Best in Show, so make a note of the chosen number. Judging for the best exhibit will take place during the afternoon. The steward should remain near the judge and be ready to collect the cats required from their pens and bring them up to the platform. This is no easy

task when the hall is crowded with exhibitors and the general public. Great difficulty may be experienced in carrying a cat through the crowds. Do try your best to soothe the animal and be sure it does not get away. Do not leave your judge until judging for Best in Show is over and the cats safely re-penned.

Veterinary Steward

If you have been asked to steward for the vet., you will need to be in the show hall the evening before and also early on the morning of the show. You will be given a chart with the number of every exhibit thereon, and as each arrives you should look at the label on the basket and cross it off on the chart. Provide the veterinary surgeon with a bowl of water, soap, towel and disinfectant. Ask the owner of each exhibit to take it out of the basket, place it upon the vetting table and open the mouth. Do not handle the cat yourself unless the owner or the vet. wishes you to do so. If a cat or kitten is not passed by the vet., it must be taken away by the owner or placed in a hospital. If you have handled it wash your hands.

From the foregoing it will be realised that stewarding entails hard and tiring work. It is a service that calls for enthusiasm, patience and plenty of common sense, but it is interesting and well worth taking the trouble to do well. Moreover, as training for prospective judges it is unequalled.

Defeat of the Ginger Tom

THE Ginger Tom was only in the village for a short time.

He came for a brief holiday with his owners, who could not bear to leave him behind. After all, everybody's loved by someone, and they seemed blissfully unaware of his Hitlerian propensities.

He was not loved by the local cat population. Sir Arthur Keith writes that Evolution is best served by self-contained evolutionary units, co-operative among themselves, and inimical towards strangers. Old Harry and Blitz and Blondie and Skittles were, so far as the Ginger Tom was concerned, definitely a self-contained evolutionary unit. They did not like him!



Really, it was his own fault; he ought not to have wanted to fight everything in sight. Probably he gained confidence from his first encounter, which was with Old Harry. Poor Old Harry, thin as a rake in his striped suiting, was no match for a youngster like the Ginger Tom.

Nobody knows Old Harry's age; he was already at the Vicarage when our present Padre arrived, and the Vicar's wife is firmly of opinion that at the Last Trump Old Harry will be among those to be judged without the preliminary of death. I think our Padre sensed a suspicion of heresy in this, but still, Old Harry plods on, and although he fled before Ginger's onslaught, he was much too old a cam-

paigner to be hurt in the process. The incident gave Ginger a superiority complex.

The Vicar's wife was of the opinion that it was a good thing Blondie was not present at the encounter. "The great brute might have killed her!" she said. Another school of thought held that Blondie's presence would have saved Old Harry from the humiliation of losing a fight, since Ginger, beglamoured of her femininity, would have been easy game for the scimitars in Blondie's long blue gloves.

However that may be, Old Harry felt his defeat keenly, and moved to and fro in the land with his legs perceptibly shorter than of yore. Blitz, who is of a peaceful disposition, took evasive action, and Ginger's self-esteem grew.



The old lady who owns that little thug, Skittles, hoped that he would never encounter the warlike stranger, and Blondie, whose maternal instinct is very strong, continued to fuss over Skittles as if he were her own. She is given to washing his coat, white ground-work and tabby patches and all, as if he were not old enough to groom himself. She fetches him scraps of food in the manner of one ministering to a starving alley-cat, and Skittles, so round that it is a wonder he can climb trees, accepts her attentions with a smug twinkle in his lime-green eyes.

So far as Blondie was concerned, the appearance of the Ginger Tom in her vicinity always produced a bushed-out blue bottle-brush of a tail, a sound like distant thunder, and, if Skittles was with her, a rush to get between him and the stranger.

Ginger seemed to consider it his mission to overawe the neighbourhood, and after he had routed Old Harry and made mincemeat of the farm cat, it became plain that he was "laying" for Blitz. The pacific Blitz invariably permitted himself to be treed. The besotted owner of Skittles, who is unaware that inside his creamy little head, with its neat tabby rosette, is the mind of a Bowery tough, was certain the monster would slay her pet and besought us all to be on the watch.



One day the Gang elected to spend the afternoon on my premises. I put a saucer of milk under the kitchen table, and opened the window, so that they could sleep indoors, or play in the copse across the path, just as their fancy dictated. Then I went upstairs.

Twenty minutes later a blood-curdling yell of agony tore the air. As I ran down, I thought, "The Ginger! He's killed Blitz . . . or one of them!"

The Monster was crouching on the path, looking malevolent. Blitz and Blondie were parading about, bushed out so that they appeared to be wearing cellophane capes. Old Harry was up a fir tree. There was no Skittles.

I thought, "He's under a bush . . . probably dying . . ." I called hysterically, "Skittles! Skittles! . . . Oh, Blondie, where is he? What happened?"

Encouraged by my presence, Blitz darted forward and the Monster, bundling himself together, scuttled away through the trees. I began to look under the bushes, calling despairingly to Skittles. After all, he was only six months old.

Then Blondie jumped on to the sill, and I realised that the poor kitten might have crept indoors to die. Or perhaps the Monster had slain him in the kitchen. That shriek of pain still rang in my ears. . . . I put my head through the window. . .

Skittles was sitting bolt upright on the armchair. There was a glint in his peridot eyes. In his mouth he held—a tuft of ginger fur!



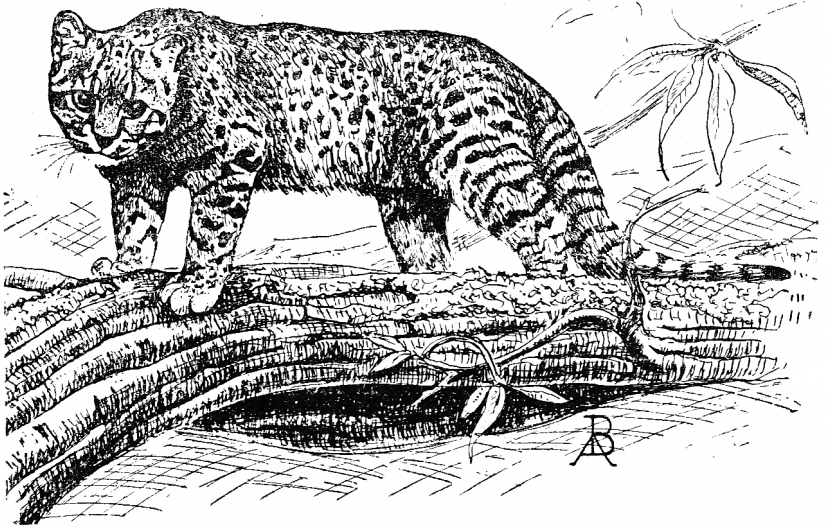
LONDON STREET SCENE

The scene is set in a side street in the West End of London, a street that is quite well known among those who enjoy something a little removed from austerity on the dining table.

The normal up and down life of the street is suddenly disturbed by a shout and a crowd starts to assemble, as a crowd does in any city, round a grating in the pavement. Under the grating is a cellar and in the cellar a small kitten has been discovered by some children.

A heads-down conference begins as the crowd is joined by the uniforms of authority. The police, the R.S.P.C.A. and the Press are represented. The question is: What best to do? The kitten had apparently been in the cellar several days and the occupants of the property were away on holiday. All attempts to extract the kitten through the bars of the grating failed.

It was finally decided to drop food down regularly until the owners return.



SOUTH AMERICAN TIGER CAT



EGYPTIAN OR CAFFRA CAT

The Immortal Cat*

By KAREL CAPEK

THIS story about a cat (with the inconsequence which is the very characteristic of reality) is at the beginning about a tomcat, in fact, about a tomcat which was presented to me. Every gift has about it something supernatural ; each comes, so to speak, from another world, it drops from heaven, is sent upon us, invades our lives independently of its own and with some kind of exuberance, especially if it happens to be a particular tomcat with blue ribbon round his neck. And he was called Philip, Percy, Scamp and Rogue, in accordance with his various moral qualities ; he was an Angora kitten, but dishevelled and carroty like any other Christian scamp. One day on a tour of exploration he fell from the balcony on to the head of some female person ; on the one hand she was scratched by it, on the other deeply offended, and she brought a charge against my cat as a dangerous animal which springs from balconies on to innocent people's heads. As a matter of fact I established the innocence of this seraphic little beast ; but three days later the little animal breathed his last, poisoned with arsenic and human malice. Just as through a strange mist I saw how with his last tremor his hips had sunken in, there was a mew on my doorstep ; a stray brindled kitten was trembling there, as scraggy as a ridge tile, and as frightened as a wandering child. Well, come here, Pussy ; perhaps it is the finger of God, the will of fate, a mysterious sign of whatever it is called ; most probably the departed has sent you in his place ; unfathomable is the continuity of life.

Such then was the first arrival of a cat which for her modesty was given the name of Pudlenka ; as you see, she came from the Unknown, but I bear witness that she in no way puffed herself up on account of her mysterious and perhaps even supernatural origin. On the contrary, she behaved like every normal cat : she drank milk and stole the meat, she slept in one's lap and roamed in the night ; and when her time had come, she gave birth to five kittens of which one was red, one black, one mixed, one brindled and one Angora. And I began to accost all the people I knew. " Listen," I began magnanimously, " I've got a marvellous kitten for you." Some of them (out of extreme modesty, very likely) managed to extricate themselves, saying they would love to,

* Reprinted from Karel Capek's book " I Had a Dog and Cat," by kind permission of the publishers, Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.

but unfortunately they couldn't, and so on ; but others were so taken by surprise that before they could utter a word I had pressed their hand, and declared that it was settled then, they needn't worry, I was going to send them that kitten in due course ; and already I was off after the next.

Nothing is more charming than such a cat's maternal happiness ; you ought to have a cat of your own, if for no other reason but for those kittens. After six weeks Pudlenka let the kittens be kittens, and went to listen at first hand to the heroic baritone of the tomcat from the adjoining street. In fifty-three days she delivered six young ones. Most probably this miraculous fertility was a legacy and post-mortem mission of the deceased bachelor cat.

I used to believe, may the devil take them, that I had heaps of acquaintances ; but from the time on when Pudlenka threw herself wholeheartedly into the production of kittens, I found that in this life of mine I was terribly alone since, for example, I had no one to present with the twenty-sixth kitten. Whenever I had to introduce myself to someone, I mumbled my name, and said : " Don't you want a kitten ? " " What sort of a kitten ? " they inquired dubiously. " I don't know yet," was usually my answer ; " but I think I shall have some again soon."

Presently I began to have a feeling that people were avoiding me ; perhaps this was out of envy because I had such luck with kittens.

According to Brehm, cats bear young twice a year. Pudlenka had them three or four times a year without any regard to the seasons. She was a supernatural cat—apparently she had a higher mission to revenge and replace a hundredfold the life of that tomcat which was done to death.

After three years of fertile vigour Pudlenka suddenly perished ; some janitor broke her back on the undignified pretext that, according to him, she had eaten a goose in his larder. The very same day that Pudlenka disappeared, her youngest daughter came back to us, a cat I had pressed on to the people next door ; and she lived with us under the name of Pudlenka II as a direct continuation of her deceased mother. She continued her to perfection ; she was still a girlish adolescent when she began to swell, and then brought four kittens into the world. One was black ; another had the noble carrot colour of the Vrsovice race ; one the elongated nose of the Strasnice cats, while the fourth was spotty like a bean, as the cats of Mala Strana are.

Pudlenka II produced kittens three times a year with the regularity of a law of nature ; in two and a quarter years she enriched the world with one-and-twenty kittens of all colours and breeds except that of the cats of the Isle of Man which are born without tails.

For the twenty-first kitten I really had no market. I was just making up my mind that I ought to join the Free Thought or the Rotary Brotherhood to gain a new circle of acquaintances when our neighbour's Rolf bit Pudlenka II to death. We carried her home and laid her on the bed. Her chin was still trembling. Then the chin stopped shaking and fleas began to emerge rapidly from her dense coat, which is the unmistakable sign of the death of a cat. So her kitten for whom there was no market remained with us as Pudlenka III.

In four months' time Pudlenka III gave birth to five kittens ; from that time on she has conscientiously fulfilled her task of this life at regular intervals of fifteen weeks ; only during those great frosts of the current year did she miss one term.

Perhaps you would not say of her that she had such a big and immortal mission ; to look at, she seems an ordinary, many-coloured, democratic puss who spends the whole day dozing on the family patriarch's lap, or on the bed. She has a highly developed sense for her personal comfort, maintains a healthy distrust of men and animals, and when it comes down to that she can defend her interests *dente unguibusque*. But when her fifteen weeks are over she begins to be excited and restless, and she sits nervously by the door giving one to understand: " Man, let me out quickly, I've got the tummy ache." After this, she dashes out like an arrow into the evening darkness and doesn't return till morning, with a drawn face and rings round her eyes. At such times a huge black tomcat comes from the North where the Olsany cemeteries are ; from the South where Vrsovice is, appears a carroty, one-eyed fighter ; from the West, the seat of civilisation, arrives an Angora cat with a bush of ostrich feathers ; from the East, where there is nothing, a mysterious animal with curved-up tail. In their midst sits the simple, many-coloured Pudlenka III and, with burning, fascinated eyes, listens to their howling, stifled exclamations, screams as of murdered children, roar of drunken mariners, saxophones, roll of drums and other instruments in the Cat's Symphony.

To put it clearly, not only are strength and courage essential for a tomcat, but also perseverance. Sometimes these four tomcats of the Apocalypse besiege Pudlenka's home for the entire week, blockading the gate, making their way through the windows into the house, and leaving behind them a hellish stench. At last the night arrives when Pudlenka III no longer has any desire to go out. " Let me sleep," she says. " Let me sleep, sleep forever. Sleep, dream. . . . Ah, I am so unhappy." After this, at the proper time, she delivers five kittens. On this point I have already a certain amount of experience: there will be five of them. I already see them, those dear, sweet little lumps, stumbling and padding about our house, pulling over electric lamps, making little puddles in slippers, crawling up my legs on to my lap (my

Let's go to a Show

Brief details of the various Cat Shows fixed to take place during the approaching 1949/50 Season are given below for the information and guidance of our readers. We shall present more detailed information from time to time as it becomes available. Make a point this time of attending as many Shows as you can. There is no better place at which to make friends and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and management.

1949	
20 August	Banstead Show ... Banstead, Surrey
25 August	*Sandy Show ... Sandy, Beds
27 August	The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club ... Eccles, Lancs
2 September	Durham County Press ... Durham
21 September	*Herts and Middlesex Cat Club ... Watford (See Advertisement)
28 September	South Western Counties Cat Club ... Torquay
11 October	*Blue Persian Cat Society ... London (See Advertisement)
13 October	*Siamese Cat Club ... London (See Advertisement)
27 October	*The Midland Counties Cat Club ... Birmingham
10 November	*Croydon Cat Club ... London
19 November	Scottish Cat Club ... Glasgow
1 December	Folkestone Show ... Folkestone
6 December	*National Cat Club ... London
1950	
9 January	*Notts and Derby Cat Club ... Venue to be fixed
23 January	*Southern Counties Cat Club ... London
26 January	The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club ... Manchester

* Denotes Shows with Championship status.

Siamese Cat Club

ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

will be held on

Thursday, Oct., 13th, 1949

at the

LIME GROVE HALL
SHEPHERDS BUSH, W.12

Schedules and all particulars from:
The Show Manager (Mrs. Hart)
Tye Cottage, Wood Street,
Guildford, Surrey

Telephone: Normandy 2128

ENTRIES CLOSE 19th SEPTEMBER

THE HERTFORDSHIRE & MIDDLESEX CAT CLUB

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CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

On Wednesday
21st September, 1949

at the

ODDFELLOWS' HALL
ST. ALBANS RD. WATFORD

- ★ Generous Classification
- ★ Popular Judges
- ★ Valuable Cups
- ★ Special Prizes

All particulars from:

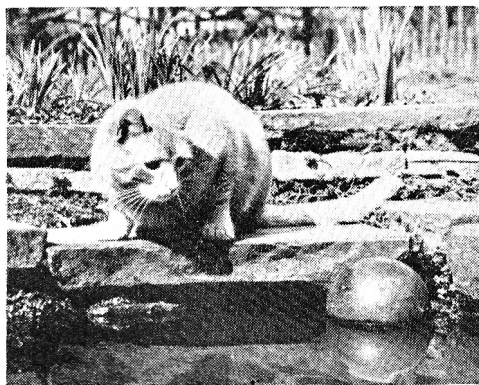
THE SECRETARY (Mrs. Parker)
17 HEMPSTEAD ROAD
KINGS LANGLEY
Tel. Kings Langley 7996

legs are scratched by them like Lazarus'). I see myself finding a kitten in my sleeve when I'm putting on my coat, and my tie under the bed when I need it.

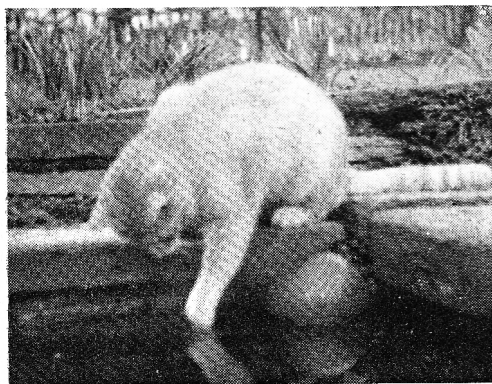
Children are a worry, everybody will tell you that. It isn't enough to bring them up ; you have to insure their future.

In the editorial department everybody by now has got a kitten from me. Very well, I'll have to look for another job. I am ready to join any society or organisation if they will assure me of the disposal of at least twenty-one kittens. While I shall be struggling along in a hostile world to find room for more generations, Pudlenka III, or Pudlenka IV, will be purring, her paws folded up beneath her, and spinning the immortal thread of cat life. She will dream of the cats' world, of the hosts of cats, when there will be enough of them, seizing power to rule over the universe. For it is a Great Task which was imposed upon her by the little Angora tomcat, innocently done to death.

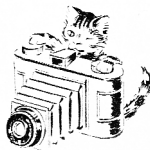
Seriously, now, wouldn't you like a kitten?



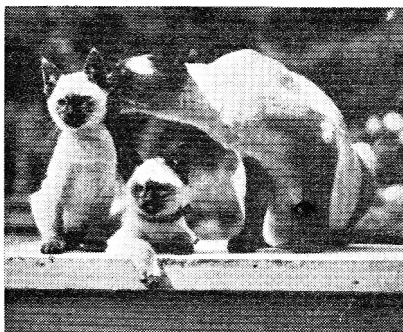
ORLANDO (nicknamed Sandy), the marmalade cat, plays "fisherman" every morning when his owner, Mrs. S. Astle, of Four Oaks, Bramhall, Cheshire, goes out to feed the ducks. The two fish he tries to catch are about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. in weight. Sandy never manages to get his paw under the fish at the right point of balance. He simply turns the fish over and gets a splashing for his pains! Our two pictures are taken from a series kindly submitted by Mr. G. A. Bond, Advertising Manager of Spratt's Patent, Ltd.—Sandy happens to be an enthusiast for Spratt's Cat Food.



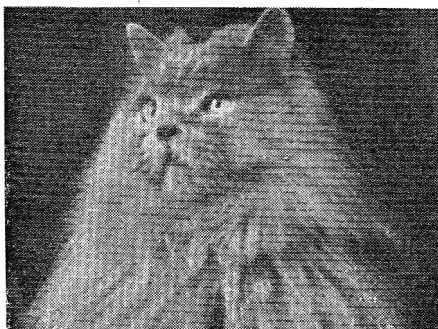
**. . well-fed, well-petted
and
properly
revered .**



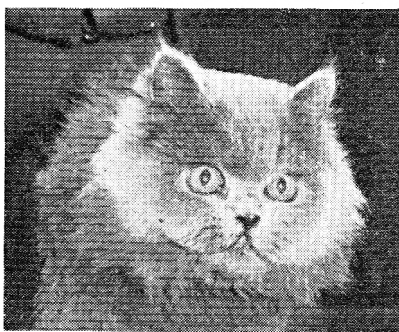
Mark Twain



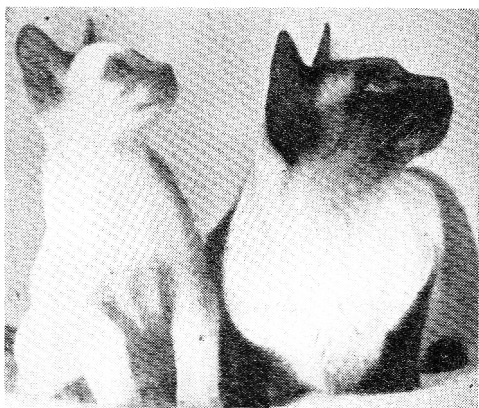
VELVET MASK SELINA (who seems to be passing on some good advice!) is shown with her two daughters Gracedieu Fah-Chee and Fai. Breeder is Mrs. G. E. Matthes, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.



WHITEWAYS BLUE GEM (by Blue Panther of Henley ex Whiteways Chloe) is a Blue Longhair neuter now nearly 2 years old. Owned by Miss E. M. Baker, of Farringdon Road, London, E.C., Blue Gem is a grandson of Blessed Mischief of Henley and a great-grandson of another famous sire, Mischief of Bredon.



RAMBLER ROSE, pretty Blue Longhair kitten, is one of many who have carried the well-known Eireanne prefix belonging to Mrs. E. Marlow, of Barons Court, London, W.14.



GEORGE and SILBE SELENE (Goddess of the Moon)—great pals—belong to Mrs. E. Silten, of Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Readers who are interested to submit photographs for inclusion in this feature are reminded that the prints should have sharp contrasts and need not be mounted. Selection by the Editor is final and snaps cannot be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for this purpose.

G.B.S. - Anti-vivisectionist

OPPONENTS of vivisection—and they are legion among cat lovers—will need no prompting or persuasion to read “Shaw on Vivisection,”* a work which came to my notice on the very day that the grand old man attained his 93rd birthday. An admirable job for the cause has been done by the compiler and editor, Mr. G. H. Bowker, Organising Secretary of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, who was materially assisted in the work of compilation by F. E. Loewenstein, Mr. Shaw’s official bibliographer and remembrancer.

Mr. Bowker, in his preface, rightly points out that although Shaw’s birthday was given considerable prominence in the newspapers, very few of them mentioned the fact that among the abuses and superstitions against which Shaw has fought persistently with pen and tongue is vivisection, including all cruel experiments on living creatures in the alleged interests of science. The book is the outcome of the Society’s desire to preserve and present a selection from Shaw’s many pronouncements on the subject.

It has been drastically revised and brought up to date by G. B. S. himself, who makes it quite clear that latest research has only deepened his conviction that, all sentiment apart, vivisection is fundamentally stupid and that it has deeply corrupted not only our science, but education and politics also.

The selections presented by Mr. Bowker open appropriately enough with Shaw’s first printed pronouncement on the subject of cruel experiments on animals in the name of science—it is a brief book review in 1887 in the now defunct “Pall Mall Gazette.” Sixty years later Shaw was in the lists again attacking Ivan Pavlov, that notorious Russian vivisector, and in 1900 he addressed a packed audience in London on the occasion of the annual general meeting of the N.A.V.S. Here is an extract from his speech—a typical Shavian shaft:

“I am very well aware of the fact that the majority of doctors defend vivisection; but I am glad to say that the majority of them do not know what they are defending. I assure you that the average practitioner knows nothing of the horrors of the physiological laboratory, and is incapable of performing the experiments of which he considers himself bound to be the defender. I have myself been lectured by a doctor for my folly and ignorance on the subject of vivisection. I replied by describing a typical and highly interesting vivisection experiment to him, and asked him what he thought of that. He broke out into expressions of disgust, and even went to the anti-humanitarian extreme of declaring that the man who did it deserved to be hanged.”

* Allen & Unwin Ltd., 5/- net.

The book concludes with a highly characteristic passage in which Shaw looks back on his earlier days as an anti-vivisectionist. Illustrations in the volume include a splendid signed portrait of the author and the last page of the dust jacket is devoted to a picture of a lady with a kitten. The lady is Miss Alice Laden, chief of domestic staff at Shaw's residence at Ayot Saint Lawrence.

Some line illustrations on the same page depict mice, rabbits and dogs, the intention being, I suppose, to convey the message that these are the animal victims of the vivisector. Where are the cats that figure all too prominently as subjects for these cruel experiments?

T. P. O.

1,400 Gate at Melbourne Show

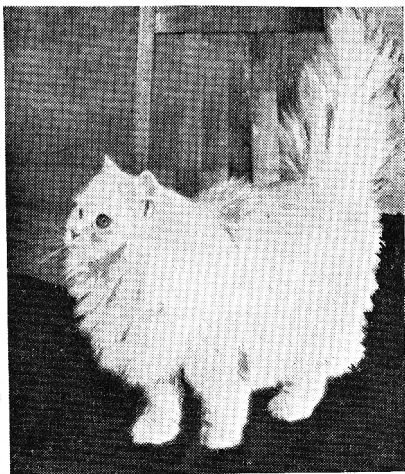
IN furtherance of our policy to publish interesting news items from all parts of the world—the international character of the readership now enjoyed by OUR CATS Magazine is surely justification enough!—we are pleased to give due prominence to a report received of the 18th Championship Show held in June by the Melbourne Cat Club. We are indebted to Mr. George Dyke, the enthusiastic Organising Secretary,

for the details of what was clearly a thorough-going success.

The Show was the largest ever held in Melbourne for 20 years and the first ever promoted for charitable purposes. Despite opposition from a nearby dog show, 1,400 visitors attended and a cheque for £86 was handed to the Lord Mayor's Fund from the proceeds. Entries totalled 134 for 103 exhibits, of which 12 were Siamese. Great interest was displayed in the Seal Points, which are a comparative rarity in Australia. They are, however, steadily growing in popularity.

Best Exhibit was a Chinchilla female, Paula of Canberra, owned by Mrs. Wise. This 10-year-old cat has been winning premier awards for years and, according to Mr. Dyke, "looks like going on for ever." Best Opposite Sex was a very nice Blue male, Hafiz of Erith, shown by Mrs. Jackson. Best Kitten was Simba of Lyndale, a Siamese owned by Mrs. Landells. Mr. F. W. Pearce, who has judged all the main Championship Shows on the East Coast of Australia, including the famous Royal Show of Sydney, regarded this kitten as one of the best he had ever handled.

The next Melbourne Show—for kittens—is due to take place in November.

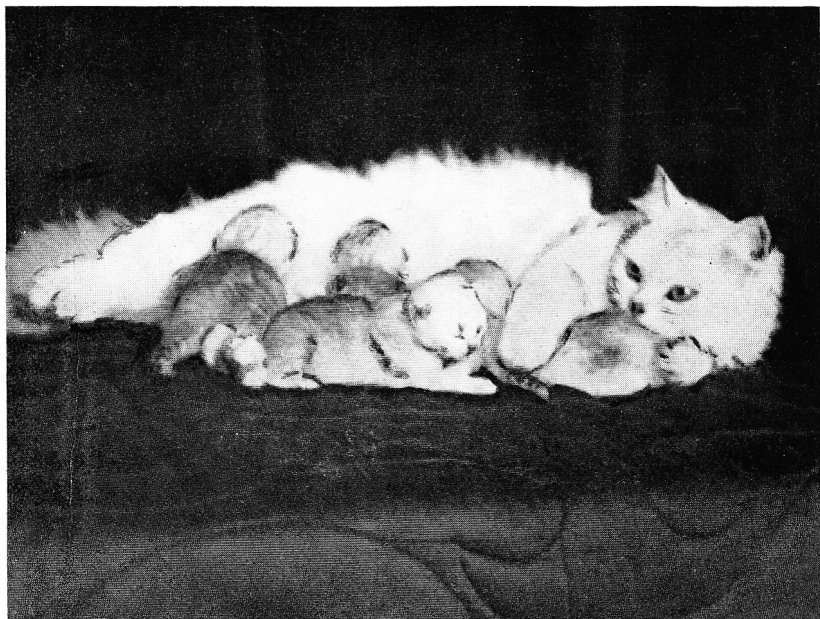


ROYAL BABE OF RONA, Cream male owned and bred by Mr. R. L. Dyke, successful Australian Fancier. Not yet a year old, Rona was undefeated at her last two shows.

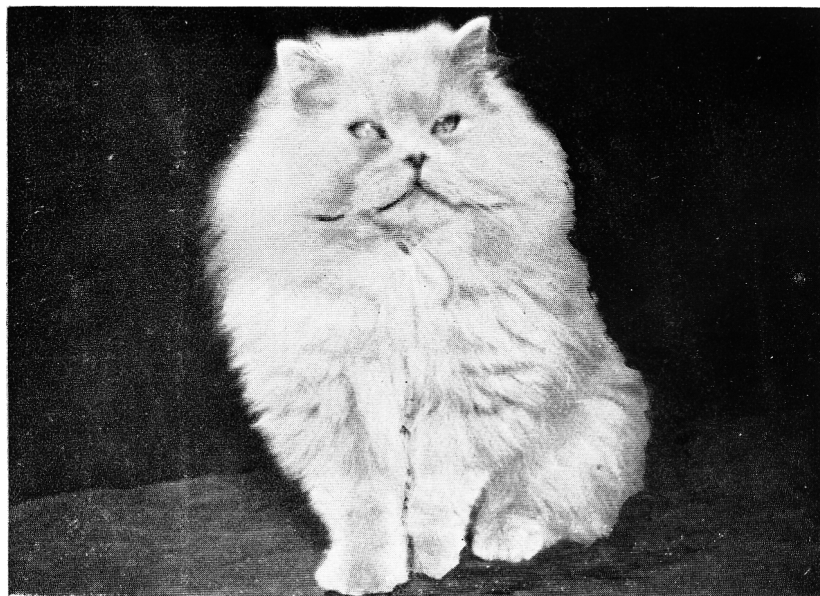


Photo by Loughborough Monitor

As bonny Stephen Lowings prepares to enjoy his first birthday cake his Siamese pet Dinah is in close attendance to see "fair shares." It is interesting to note that Dinah is a grown-up member of the lively litter (bred by Miss M. Lant) whose picture appeared on page six of our May issue. For permission to reproduce this delightful scene we are indebted to Stephen's father, Mr. R. F. Lowings, Editor of the "Loughborough Monitor."



VANDA DE LA CHESNAIE, lovely Chinchilla mother "avec 4 chatons." Vanda was Best Opposite Sex at the 1948 Lausanne Exhibition. She is one of several outstanding cats belonging to those enthusiastic Swiss Fanciers, Mr. A. Marcel Chamonin and his sister Mlle. B. Chamonin.



Perhaps the best known member of the Chamonin Cattery is Int. Champion TALISMAN DE LA CHESNAIE, Blue Longhair male. Talisman belongs to Mlle. B. Chamonin and his outstanding qualities have been recognised time and time again at Continental shows.

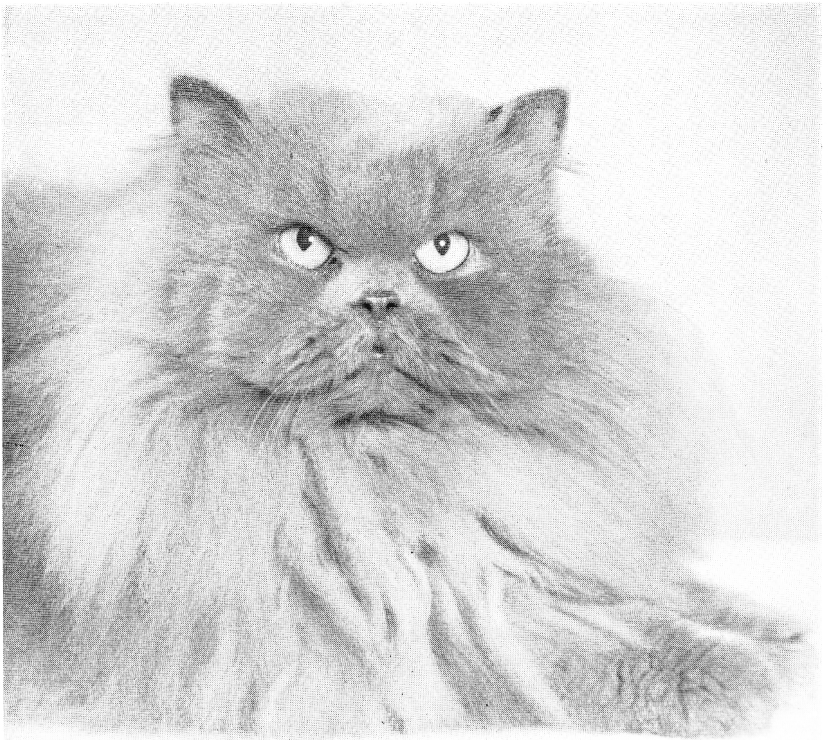
On mange très bien ici!



IN FRANCE. A Blue Shorthair queen and her four kittens at meal time make a charming domestic scene. Owner is Mr. J. Marolle, well-known Paris Fancier, who has bred and shown this variety with considerable success.



IN ENGLAND. This happy family of three belongs to Mrs. I. V. G. Sumner, of Western Point, Runcorn. They are (left to right) SPIDER, Mackerel Tabby, RUSTY, 2-year-old Red Tabby, and his brother BIG SANDY, who tips the scales at 21 lbs. at 2½ years.



Champion LAVENDER LIBERTY, belonging to Miss E. G. Hydon, of Bogota, New Jersey, who is prominent in the American Fancy as President of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. The sire (Ch. Lavender Chu Chu) and dam (Laughton Delphine) of this magnificent Blue Longhair were exported from England before the war.



"Posing majestically in a city square" . . . see story opposite.



Tailpieces

*A regular newsy feature
with a selection of the best
items from home and overseas*

REMEMBER the disaster to the famous R34, the first airship to make an east to west crossing of the Atlantic in July, 1919? Six members of the crew who survived the disaster recently met in London at a reunion dinner. During the evening a toast was drunk to the guest of honour, a black and white male cat who belongs to the 30th generation of the R34 mascot, Jazz. It was Jazz who made the flying trip to America 30 years ago, and one of the survivors, ex-Squadron-Leader Durrant, revealed that when they landed an American woman offered a thousand dollars for the cat, but the offer was refused. "I am glad," he said, "that we are drinking a toast to-night to his offspring many times removed."

There was an amusing sequence of events in a Knightsbridge square recently. First of all, Mimi, a black cat belonging to 11-year-old Eileen Caulfield was discovered on the roof. Eileen's brother happened to be home on leave from the Navy, so up he swarmed in best naval style to effect a rescue. A lady in a nearby flat saw him and thought he was perhaps some undesirable intruder, so she promptly dialled 999. Police cars duly arrived, men in blue climbed up to the roof and others surrounded the block. In due course Mimi was rescued and restored to her relieved owner, explanations were made all round and peace was restored to the inhabitants of the square.

A Hungarian cat is reported to have set off a landmine as it tried to

cross the border into Austria. The cat was killed and an Austrian woman was injured.

Mr. Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., enthusiastic Isle of Wight Fancier, is probably the first to export to Canada since the war. His Cream male Danehurst Sherriff was purchased by Mrs. Spencer, of Toronto, and everyone concerned appears to be pleased with the transaction. Sherriff's picture in the February issue of OUR CATS had not a little to do in initiating this interesting sale.

I duly pass on editorial regrets for the error which appeared in last month's issue in the caption accompanying the picture of the members of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club who attended Mrs. Mitchell's successful garden party. Mrs. Mitchell, who is Vice-Chairman of the Club, was wrongly described as the President, an honour which was, of course, bestowed on Miss Kit Wilson, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. Sorry, H and M.!

A correspondent in "The Countryman" reports an encounter with a family of wild cats when motoring in Scotland along Loch Awe. The family consisted of one parent and four kittens about one-third grown. One of the kittens had a bird in its mouth, obviously given to it by its parent. As they were approached the family moved into the bracken, where the parent crouched defiantly till the kittens were safely behind her. "The Countryman" observes that in recent years the wild cat has

The photographic gem shown opposite of a cat posing majestically in a city square was taken by Arthur Hamer, a freelance writer and photographer of Whitefield, near Manchester. Mr. Hamer noticed the cat as he was walking through Piccadilly, Manchester, on a sunny morning in June. It had been attracted by the birds that flew around to take the scattered breadcrumbs. Patience on the part of the photographer was rewarded when the cat tired of the stalking game and spread himself out along the parapet for this excellent picture.

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Hon. Secretary: MRS. O. M. LAMB
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Championship Show in Birmingham
October 27th, 1949

BLUE PERSIAN CAT SOCIETY

12th CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

to be held at

HOLY TRINITY HALL
GRT. PORTLAND STREET, W.1

on

TUESDAY, OCT. 11th 1949

From 12.30 — 5.30 p.m. Admission 2/6d.

All enquiries for schedules and information to :
MRS. J. M. NEWTON, CRAB TREE,
HAMM COURT, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY

been spreading again in the Highlands, where it is now found as far south as the Firth of Clyde and as far east as the neighbourhood of Perth. In many other places it is increasing in numbers.

A Selling (Kent) cat is reported to have a special interest in grass snakes which seem to have been plentiful this summer on account of the hot, dry weather. He catches, kills and eats them.

The R.S.P.C.A. medal has been awarded to 34-year-old Alfred Garnham, of Ipswich, for his pluck in rescuing a cat which had been treed for several days. After the local fire brigade had failed to make a rescue, Mr. Garnham climbed hand over hand up a 100 ft. pine tree and brought the cat down to earth and safety.

Mr. Brian S. Porter, Secretary of Sandy Show, which is to take place on 25th August, wishes me to make known the details of some changes in the plans announced for the judging of three of the cat classes. Mrs. L. K. Sayers, specialist Siamese judge, will take the side class confined to members of the Blue Pointed Siamese Cat Club. Two other classes originally allocated to Mrs. Sayers—those for Any Coloured Shorthaired Male or Female, including Siamese (confined to members of the National Cat Club), and Any Variety Kitten, Male or Female, including Siamese (confined to members of the Notts and Derby Cat Club)—will now be taken by Mrs. Joan Thompson and Mr. Cyril Yeates, respectively.

The 14th International Veterinary Congress, of which H.M. the King is Patron, has just concluded in London. The main theme of the Congress was the veterinary profession's contribution to the world's food supply. Delegates from the Dominions, the United States, South America and many European countries attended to take part in the learned discussions on animal health and disease control problems. The National Veterinary Medical Association confined its Annual Congress activities this year to three days, two of which coincided with meetings of the International Congress, so that there might be joint discussions on small animal matters, as opposed to the farm livestock subjects which occupied the time of the delegates

during the first four days. Six papers covered feline matters and there is no doubt that these international discussions will ultimately benefit the cat population of the world.

Dr. Octavia Lewin, M.B., B.S., famous 80-year-old rhinologist and former consultant to the London County Council, maintains that children can be taught nasal toilet from the cat. To get them to breathe properly, she says, hold a saucer under their noses with a ball of cotton wool in it. Get them to breathe in and out and watch how the wool ball dances. Rhinology is the study of the nose and is derived from *rhinos*, the Greek word for nose.

According to a report in a Sunday newspaper there is a deep bond of sympathetic understanding between a Bognor Regis resident and his Persian cat. When the man had a tooth out recently, the vet. had to be called in to extract one of his pet's eye teeth which had been aching in sympathy.

A caravan unit, fitted out as an exhibit for agricultural and other animal shows and events, is proving an ideal solution to the problem of publicity for the Animal Health Trust during the present show season. As an inquiry bureau for the public on questions relating to the Trust's scientific work, it carries sufficient material to show to visitors how research and education contribute to a higher standard of animal health and welfare in this country. This unit will be appearing at the London Zoo for the period 10th-17th September next, when it is certain to attract a great deal of attention from visitors of all ages.

Received from one of my readers, Mrs. E. W. Wridgway, of Ribchester, Lancs.: I remember 30 years ago hearing of a small Lancashire boy who was asked to make up a sentence with the word "income" in it. He thought a few seconds and said, "I opened door and in come cat!"

A plane that recently left London for New York resembled a flying Noah's Ark. It carried 24 snakes, 300 monkeys, 8 toucans, rabbits, dogs, a great variety of birds—and one Siamese cat. The passengers were reported to be on their way

from India to a New York pets emporium.

A correspondent in the "Sunday Express," writing from Tregaron, Cardiganshire, reports an appalling trail of casualties following the visit of a trapper in his district. The casualties occurred in eight homes, all within a radius of less than half a mile: (1) Cat and dog—broken paws; (2) two hens, two cats—broken claws and paws; (3) one cat, one dog—paws off; (4) three cats—one died; (5) one cat—died; (6) one cat—broken paws; (7) hens and a cat—died; (8) one cat—leg broken.

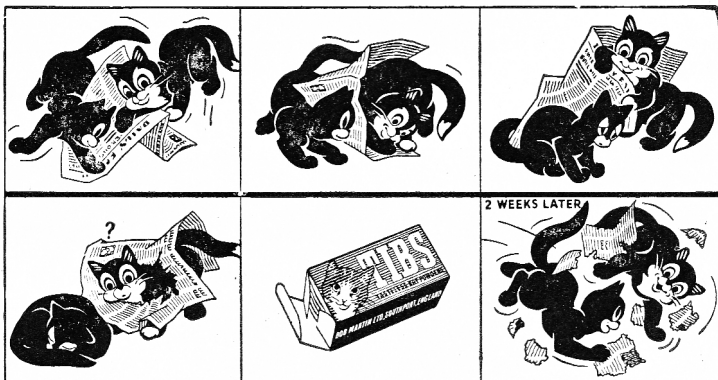
National Cat Week in America will be celebrated this year from 6th to 12th November, inclusive. This will be the fifth year of the Week, which was founded in 1945 with the slogan: "Understanding, Appreciation and Better Care." Mr. John Newton has resigned as national chairman and executive headquarters have been transferred from Columbus, Ohio, to Pittsburgh because of his resignation. The new Secretary is Miss Lydia O. Cypher, who was one of the original

founders of the recently organised Greater Pittsburgh Cat Club and a great social worker in the district.

The ceremony of blessing the animals, well known in this country and on the Continent, has just been observed for the first time in America. Miss Alice Manchester, President of the Greenwich Village Humane League in New York, was responsible for initiating the ceremony, which was well attended by cat lovers and their pets. Those present included Miss Hetty Gray Baker with her imported Siamese Blue Point Mikado of the Fleet, and Miss Gregg Sherwood, Broadway musical comedy star. The religious ceremony was followed by a parade of cats and dogs and the presentation of awards to owners and animals for outstanding deeds of bravery.

The Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire has elected Mr. James Mason as Vice-President. Mrs. Price is now Vice-Chairman of the Society.

MICKEY



REMINDER to new cat owners! Domestic cats do not always keep fit without the aid of humans. Careful owners follow the wise routine of regular conditioning with 'Tibs' Cat Powders. *Start your cat right* on one 'Tibs' every day, and keep him fit and frisky as a kitten.

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TIBS
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Just Fancy

Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

REGULARLY every month, Mrs. Joan Thompson—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—will turn the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

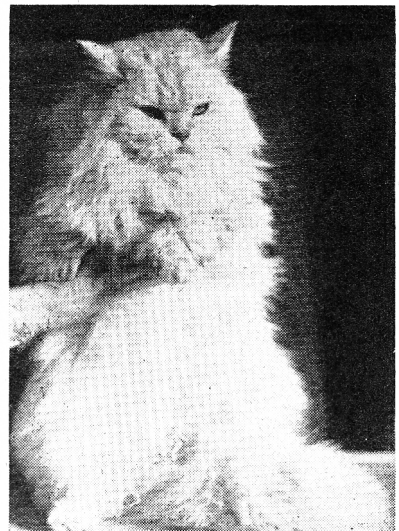
3rd July. A lovely sunny day spent with Mr. and Mrs. Polden and their well-known Poldenhill Chinchillas at Reigate. Their secluded garden is built over Reigate tunnel and one looks over the wall on to a sheer drop of 40 ft., so the cats are not allowed complete liberty.

I thought the accommodation excellent and the runs really spacious. One new house was built to Mrs. Polden's own specifications and had several features conducive to feline contentment. The shelves on a level with the windows was a good idea for wet days; also the main door leading to two separate compartments each with its own door and nice roomy shelf with a sleeping box. The exterior—as an extra precaution against damp—was painted corrugated zinc and the interior looked like beaver board. Breeders contemplating this type of house and run may be interested to know that the cost is roughly £50.

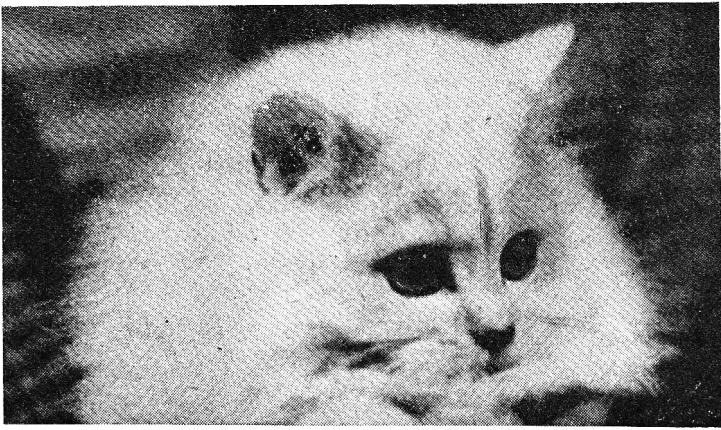
Mrs. Polden's young male Poldenhill Hyperion occupied this house. He will be at stud next season if he is a proved sire. He had a very long, thick, delicately-ticked coat, and the large expressive eyes which are

such a lovely feature of Chinchillas. Sharing the house with him was Poldenhill Marilla, a queen by Ch. Foxburrow Tilli Willi. The senior queen was Sukilu, now 13½ years old. She is a wonderful cat for her age and still has a nice pale coat. I was interested to see Poldenhill Cameo Suzanne, dam of Poldenhill Pusso-lini, Best Exhibit in Show at the Southern Counties Cat Club Ch. Show, 1948. This year Suzanne had a very nice male kitten by Ch. Foxburrow Tilli Willi and he is going to Mr. and Mrs. Whale, of Coventry, who hope to found a dynasty with him.

The well-known neuter Simba Fitz-Matthew was in lovely condition



SIMBA FITZ-MATTHEW



Fathe News

POLDENHILLS PUSSOLINO, "Best in Show" Chinchilla, 1948.
Sire is Ch. Foxburrow Tilli Willi. Breeder, Mrs. Chas. Polden.

although his immense coat must have been overpowering on such a hot day. He is over 9 years old and his eyes are still a glorious colour. Mrs. Polden mated her pure-bred Chinchilla Geraldeena to the Silver Tabby Robert of Silverleigh hoping she would have Silver Tabbies, but the result was two female kittens, one a pale Chinchilla and the other one ticked more than is fashionable nowadays. This one is going to Mrs. Ashton, of Alderley Edge, as a pet, and the other Mrs. Polden hopes will find a good home with someone who intends to breed Silver Tabbies.

8th July. Mme. Zeroudaki, whom I met at the Paris Show in May, and who was spending a holiday at Luton, came on a visit to-day. She has not sufficient accommodation to breed cats since the war, but visits the shows in France and was disappointed she could not wait for the Kensington Kitten Show.

9th July. Tea with Miss Statman at Cricklewood. Her queen Valley-end Vanessa was nursing a very nice pair of kittens by the late Gathorne Gremlin. I was especially pleased to

see them because Miss Statman has been so patient. Vanessa came to my young male in early Spring, 1948, and although she was in season she firmly refused to be mated. As she was a maiden queen we expected her to be more amenable next time, but no! she repeated the same tactics.

I suggested trying her with another male who was older and the "conquering hero" type, but her two visits to such a stud also produced negative results. Then Mrs. Chappell kindly offered to take Gathorne Gremlin to Cricklewood, but Vanessa was not interested, so I advised allowing her to choose her own mate. Miss Statman was naturally reluctant as she wanted pedigree kittens, but before Vanessa had finished her season she was allowed out and mated within a few minutes. The result was a mongrel family. This year she visited Gathorne Gremlin and was quite normal.

Personally I should never hesitate to allow a difficult maiden queen to mismate, as it is the most effective way to get them into kitten providing they are normal physically. I know my own queens would like to make love matches with a rakish

white male cat which frequents my garden when I have a queen in season. With some cats it seems to be a case of "the time, the place and the loved one altogether"!

10th July. A list of shows with the respective Show Managers and venues can be obtained from the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. Novices should note that entries usually close about two to four weeks before the Show. All intending exhibitors and visitors should keep an eye on the Show Calendar which now appears in each issue of this Magazine. It is advisable to register or transfer cats and kittens in ample time so that everything is in order when entry forms are sent to show managers. It is remarkable how frequently owners leave registrations until the last minute. Novices ignore the simple instructions on the back of registration forms and the Secretary has a spate of owners choosing obvious names which have already been taken. If such names are very much desired they are sometimes available if one adds an adjective such as *Saucy Sue*, *Pensive Penelope*, *Merry Michael* or *Mischievous Mickey*. All registration forms, etc., obtainable from the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine.

11th July. Welcome letter from Mr. Chamonin (Commissaire-général of the Geneva Cat Club) enclosing the photos which are so interesting to English Fanciers. He tells me he has been very busy launching a German edition of his book "Nos Amies les Chats," which will appear under the title "Die Katzen." He was also officiating as General Manager of the Show at Bienne, Switzerland, and judging Shorthairs at the show in Milan, Italy.

I was pleased to hear that all goes

well with the Chamonin cats and that there is a crowd of pretty kittens at their cattery which is so well known in Switzerland under the affix "de la Chesnaie." The Blue male Ch. Int. Talisman de la Chesnaie is a lovely pale cat excelling in head and type. The Blue Cream Vasthy de la Chesnaie, whom I admired so much when I judged in Switzerland last November, was mated to a Blue and produced all Blues.

14th July. To Caterham to visit Mr. Soderberg. Mottrams is situated in a delectable spot nestling far away from other houses in a lovely valley with only a rough road in front which seldom has any traffic. It is an ideal place for domestic pets. The centre of attraction was Herries Helga, the Blue bred by Miss Brenda Stephenson. Helga is the queen who made Mr. Soderberg alter his objection to mating queens before they are ten months old. Although her first birthday was not until 5th August, she has been an attentive and capable mother to her six hefty kittens by Deebank Periwinkle. Deebank Annette, a Blue, also bred by Miss Bull, of Thornton Hough, is a lovely pale queen excelling in type and eyes and a real show specimen. Exhibiting, however, does not appeal to Mr. Soderberg for various reasons, so she will probably lead the placid home life so suitable for brood queens. She was nursing four sturdy kittens by Moonraker of Allington. The two females were very promising and one of these may be retained.

Two Siamese neuters, one a spayed female, live an ideal life. The male mounts guard over the kittens and appears to be completely fascinated by them. He washes them and is most attentive, although a little shy of strange humans. Although some Siamese and Longhairs are not good "mixers," this is one of many happy mixed breed families I have seen.

The Blue stud is Deebank Peri-

winkle, a beautifully bred male by Ch. Oxleys Peter John. When he was exhibited at the B.P.C.S. Ch. Show in January, 1946, he was first in the 3 to 6 months Blue male kitten class. Mr. Soderberg was busy preparing for a six weeks' holiday in Italy.

17th July. Mr. and Mrs. Gee-Heaton to tea. They are just commencing to breed Blues and their queen has a lovely pair of males by Ch. Oxleys Peter John. They find them so appealing that they intend to keep both, probably to be neutered later on. Mrs. Watson, Miss Cottell and her friend were also in the party and later we all took a short walk to see Souvenir Annette's litter of five males by my Gem.

Annette is a very nice queen by Miss Collins's Perivale Masterful and she is the mother of Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's Trenton Virginia, who was awarded first as a kitten at the Notts and Derby Ch. Show and also the Manchester Show in January.

Mr. and Mrs. Gee-Heaton and Mrs. Watson have purchased a house at Caterham within a mile of Mr. Soderberg's residence and they were very interested to hear he knows much about aquariums, etc., which happens to be one of their hobbies. As a parting shot Mr. Gee-Heaton hopes to convert me into a fish fancier!

20th July. Governing Council meeting in the morning. Had a short but very pleasant lunch with Mrs. Macdonald and Mrs. Sayers, and then on as the latter's guest to a meeting of the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire. This was a very pleasant affair and the Club's trophies made an imposing array. Mrs. Williams, Miss Yorke and Miss Manley were also guests. I think it would be a good idea if other Clubs allowed members to take a guest to some of

their meetings. Needless to add it would have to be a social invitation and guests would not be eligible to participate in discussions or to vote. The Society has over 70 members and if any of my readers wish to join, the Secretary is Miss Beckett, Esher, Uffingham Road, London, N.W.10.

26th July. The Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Clubs' Show in London was a cheery, very well organised affair. The weather was almost too perfect. Nevertheless, the hall was well filled during the afternoon, so I imagine the gate was a good one.

There were 163 exhibits and 18 litters. Thanks are due to the Show Managers (Mrs. J. M. Newton and Miss Kit Wilson) and to the Committee for this enjoyable Show.

Best Exhibit was Miss Tucker's Red Tabby Shorthair Vectensian Rio Tinto, by Rivoli Rogue and Vectensian Copper Eyes (also a Red Tabby Shorthair). And thereby hangs a tale! V. Copper Eyes was exhibited at a small show at Banstead last August at which Mrs. Williams and myself were judging. Miss Tucker was unaware of her pet's outstanding qualities as that was her first show and the cat was entered more or less to "fill up" the entries. Until this year she was allowed to mate promiscuously.

Directly I saw her I knew there must be pedigree stock somewhere among her ancestors, and on looking up the records I found on one side she was descended from Speedwell Dainty Bess, a Blue-Cream female bred by Miss Peake. Dainty Bess was by Speedwell Kreemy Hugh and

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Ch. Speedwell Lovey Mary, so on V. Copper Eyes' maternal side there are many well known Longhair winners. Her lovely copper eyes would be sufficient to proclaim good breeding as it is a colour so rarely seen in non-pedigree cats, but besides eye-colour she has a good head and sweet expression and is well marked.

She was a gift to Miss Tucker and so has proved a grand start for this young fancier, who wisely decided to mate her to the outstanding Red Tabby Shorthair Rivoli Rogue. As Miss Wrightson's well-marked Red Tabby Shorthair Ch. Stanton Red Elf is a good outcross for Rivoli Rogue's progeny, there are great possibilities for this variety with these two unrelated males available.

Another interesting exhibit was Mrs. Chapman's Blue-Cream Shorthair Bridgeway Susan. This pretty kitten was discovered in a pet shop at Maidenhead by Miss Steer and

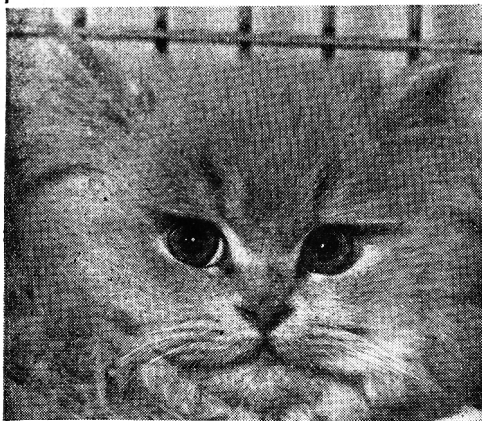
purchased for 1s. Mrs. Chapman decided to give her a good home and she well deserved for her kindness the two seconds awarded to the kitten. Cat lovers are rightly horrified at kittens being sold for such prices. No wonder one hears of thoughtless persons buying pretty female kittens and leaving them to fend for themselves when they grow up.

A similar story which that genuine and great cat lover Miss Catherine Manley told me happened last weekend. Visiting her brother in Warwickshire, she attended a garden party and found a litter of kittens being raffled for sixpenny tickets. One found an ideal home with Mr. and Mrs. Manley, but we are left to speculate on the fate of the others. As Miss Manley rightly said, "No wonder vivisectionists can procure victims easily if these cases are typical."

Miss Manley judged the household pet section at the Show and her first

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prize winners were a lovely family, a Siamese pair with three bonny kittens, all in lovely condition. Miss Manley told me every pet she handled was a credit to its owner. Some very nice special prizes were offered and every pet had a card on his or her pen. Congratulations to the owners.

The Best Neuter in Show was Miss Crosher's Blue Longhair Vagabond of Knott Hall. The Best Longhair kitten in Show was Mr. Bubb's Blue Longhair Avillon Button, sired by his Cream male Autumn. Mr. and Mrs. Bubb came all the way from Sandford, near Bristol, and had a field day, winning first with the Cream male kitten Petit Beurre (also by Autumn) and first in Blue-Creams with Avillon Georgina, litter sister to Avillon Button.

Best Siamese kitten was Miss Skelton's female Salween Precious, sired by Salween Rajah. First in male kittens was Mrs. Richardson's Morris Rajah, also by Rajah. Mrs. K. R. Williams was first in Any Variety litter class (13 in class) with a lovely litter of Seal Pointed Siamese by her male Afga Khan and Doneraile Diane, and she was also first with her Chocolate Pointed Siamese kitten Doneraile Brun. First in Blue Pointed Siamese kittens was Miss West and Mrs. Martin's Morning Mist.

I was pleased to meet Miss Charlotte Cousins, of Cape Town, on holiday in England. She was a very interested spectator. On a previous visit she took out Lotus of Brakkeloof, also Darwinnie Marlborough, sired by Mr. Stirling-Webb's Henry of Abingdon. This pair have been very satisfactory and excellent breeders, although Marlborough was once seriously ill with a malady named biliary, which is caused by ticks and is prevalent in semi-tropical countries.

27th July. Mrs. Crickmore is re-joining in five kittens (four males) by Ch. Southway Crusader and Glenshee

Powder Puff. Last year this same breeding produced Thiepval Enchantress, winner of 34 firsts. Enchantress herself has four kittens (three males) by Ch. Oxley's Peter John, so Mrs. Crickmore must be unique in possessing nine kittens by champions from the only two Blue queens she owns.

29th July. Met Mr. Cyril Yeates and travelled to Nottingham. Stayed at "The Flying Horse," a hotel of happy memories to judges at the past shows of the Notts and Derby Club.

30th July. To Beeston, Notts, to find everything ready for the Show so capably managed by Mr. and Mrs. Brice-Webb. The Best Exhibit in Show was Mrs. Bastow's Blue female Westbridge Eve, by Southway Echo, a well-grown, pale, sound coated kitten of excellent type. Miss Brenda Stephenson's lovely baby kitten Herries Nicholas was a gem and first in the Blue male kitten class. In Blue Adults, Mrs. Brice-Webb was awarded first in the Blue males with Oxleys Smasher and first in females with Ronada Peach, both shown in lovely condition and very well presented.

Mrs. Glover, a young novice, was first with a Cream female, Caroleena Christie, in the Any Variety Longhair kitten class. Best Neuter in Show was Mrs. Lythgoe Butt's Siamese Doneraile Chang; he was a great credit to his breeder, Mrs. Williams, and his owner. Another lovely neuter was Mr. and Mrs. Glann's Chinchilla Gentleman Jim. With the permission of the Show Manager I awarded him an extra first. In the Household Pets Class Mr. Yeates awarded first to a handsome Tabby named Tibbs. Second was an imposing Tortie and White who walked amicably about on a lead held by her owner, Mrs. Jones. This lady is evidently a great cat lover as she informed us she had eight neutered cats.

Best Siamese Adult judged by Mr. Yeates was Mrs. Puttick's Sherwood Thai-Zenie, by Mystic Dreamer and bred by Mrs. Hancox. Best Siamese Kitten was Mrs. Nicholas's Ryecroft Punch, by Ryecroft Thailand Emperor. Mr. Barker kindly stewarded for me.

Mrs. Pratt's Blue female kitten Merriemeade Tiptoes nearly came to an untimely death shortly before the

of the bathing beauty judges. Three hundred and sixty persons paid for admission to the cat marquee.

It is now too late to enter for the cat section of Eccles Horticultural and Agricultural Show on 27th August, but it will be interesting to visitors as there are 16 classes to be judged by Mr. George Bolton.

31st July. Miss Cathcart, hon. Secretary of the South-Western



Photo by The Nottingham Journal Ltd.

Mrs. D. Brice-Webb with her prize-winning Blue Longhair male OXLEYS SMASHER

Show. She was missing from her home and then someone thought of looking down a well. There she was, swimming strongly 14 feet down. Mr. Pratt fortunately had a ladder long enough to reach her. When she was eventually rescued she was covered with slime. She was rushed indoors and bathed and was none the worse for her adventure. She was placed second to Westbridge Eve in her Open class. There were many diversions as well as the cats at this popular Carnival Show, and in the afternoon Mr. Brice-Webb was one

of the bathing beauty judges. Three hundred and sixty persons paid for admission to the cat marquee. It is now too late to enter for the cat section of Eccles Horticultural and Agricultural Show on 27th August, but it will be interesting to visitors as there are 16 classes to be judged by Mr. George Bolton. **31st July.** Miss Cathcart, hon. Secretary of the South-Western Counties Cat Club, writes: "I was delighted to see the picture of Trelystan Garnetson in OUR CATS and have had an enquiry from the U.S.A. about exporting a Brown Tabby female. We are looking forward to the Show at Torquay on 28th September and hope it will be well supported. Mrs. Sampson will judge all Longhairs and Mr. Stirling-Webb Siamese and other Shorthairs. There will be 36 classes and many specials. We have enrolled over 40 members since our annual meeting."

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To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

I am going to make your page different in future! Most of you have a cat at home, but quite often this is not your own particular pet. Somewhere out in the garden you may have rabbits or guinea pigs or perhaps mice. In the house your pet may be a dog and some of you will have a dog which is really your own.

So for a time at any rate this page, instead of containing only news about your cats and mine, will spread itself out quite a lot and I shall write about all sorts of creatures which interest me and you as well.

Strange Pets

Some of the boys here are keeping young jackdaws as pets this term. After a week or two these young birds become very tame. Of course, they are noisy and as there are ten of them the noise is sometimes just a bit too much.

After the first week they are allowed complete freedom, but they do not fly away to become completely wild again. When the boys come out of class the jackdaws are waiting and they always know their owner and land on his shoulder with wild screeches of pleasure.

Two years ago, when there were also a number of jackdaws about as pets, one became so intelligent that it used to fly in the dormitory window in the morning and peck its owner until he awakened. That meant that Mr. Jackdaw was hungry and wanted his breakfast.

Perhaps you would like to try this next year. Do remember, though, that when you make friends with a wild bird you must not shut it up when it has got to know you. You will not keep it for more than a year because when the breeding season comes round, if not before, it will fly away and forget all about you. That is as it should be. Wild creatures should not lose their freedom.

The Dormouse

I recently had a letter from an American girl who asked me if she could keep a dormouse as a pet.

Do you know what a dormouse is like? It has a nice bright brown coat with white fur on the chest and tummy, and a really bushy tail quite unlike a mouse.

They are most fascinating little creatures and are very friendly and tame and never bite their human friends.

As pets, however, they have their disadvantages for they only wake up when you are going to bed, and during Autumn and Winter they sleep nearly all the time. They wake up every few weeks and have a good meal and then go to sleep again. When a dormouse is asleep you really have to shake him properly before he wakes up.

The "Dor" in dormouse is the same as the "Dor" in dormitory which has something to do with sleep.

Why not try a dormouse as a pet? He loves nuts and also flies, so it would not be difficult to feed him.

Uncle Peter

Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

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Miscellaneous

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Editorial Note : Owing to unusual pressure on our space this month we are unable to include Who's Who among the Breeders?, Correspondence Page and Mr. Soderberg's article on Care and Management. These popular features will, we hope, reappear in the September issue of the Magazine.



The South Western Counties Cat Club seizes every opportunity for promotion and publicity and in this connection the Club is fortunate in having a number of enthusiastic workers. Our picture shows the Club's tent at the Devon County Show where the members in charge are Miss Mackenzie and Capt. Lowe, of Slades Cross Siamese fame, and Mrs. Mitchell.

SHOWS IN SWITZERLAND AND ITALY

The Cat Club of Bienne, the last-born of the member clubs of the Swiss Cat Federation, has got off to a flying start with a very successful international exhibition held in the House of the People. Mme. Bridgett had the heavy task of judging the Longhair exhibits, which totalled 80 and included some very fine representatives. Unhappily, at the last minute, the Italians who were expected to reinforce the exhibits were unable to cross the frontier on account of regulations imposed by the veterinary authorities as precautions against rabies. Best in Show was awarded to Mlle. Perrin's lovely White Venus du Lemàn (whose picture appeared in the March issue of OUR CATS) and Best Opposite Sex was Int. Ch. Talisman de la Chesnaie, belonging to Mlle. Chamonin. Talisman's picture appears in the centre section of this issue.

The Cat Club of Italy has been completely reorganised following the resignation of the Secretary-General, Mr. Carlo de Maddalena. A new Council has been formed and the vacant office will be filled by Mr. Fiorenzo Jaja. An excellent two-day show has been held in Milan at which the judges were Mme. M. Ravel (Longhairs) and Mr. A. M. Chamonin (Shorthairs). Plans are in hand for a grand show to be held in Rome during the winter season.

We shall be pleased to arrange your subscription to the monthly CATS MAGAZINE published in America

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