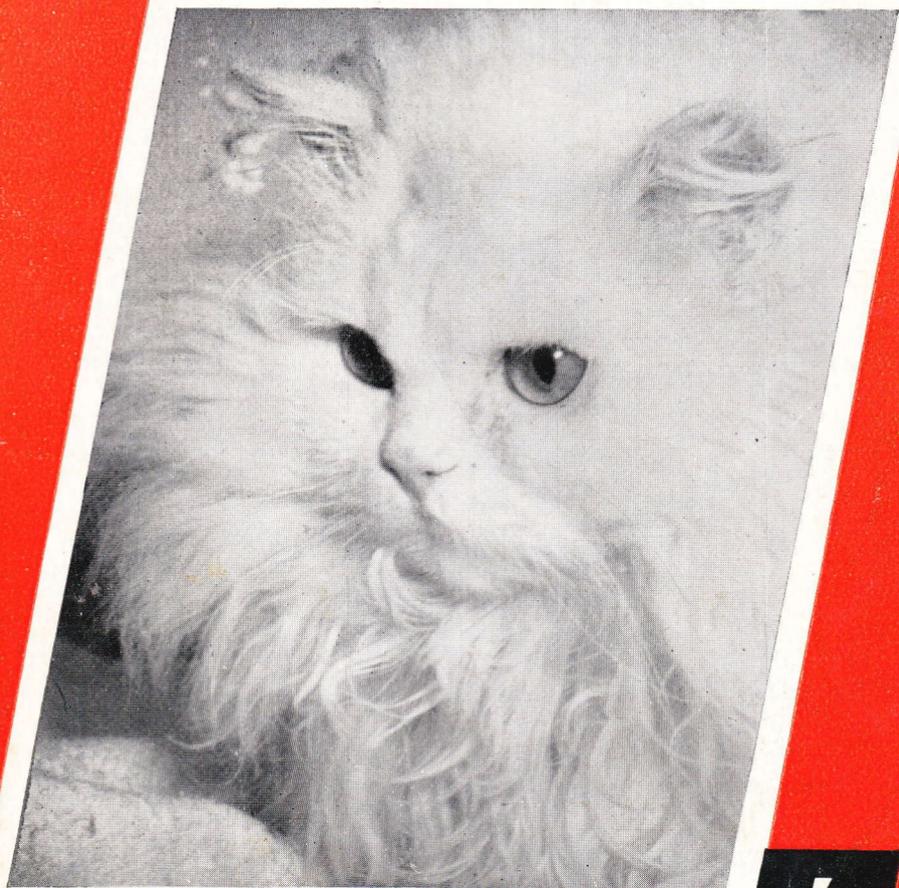


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

APRIL 1950

FORTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO (see page 25)

EXTRA CONTENTMENT

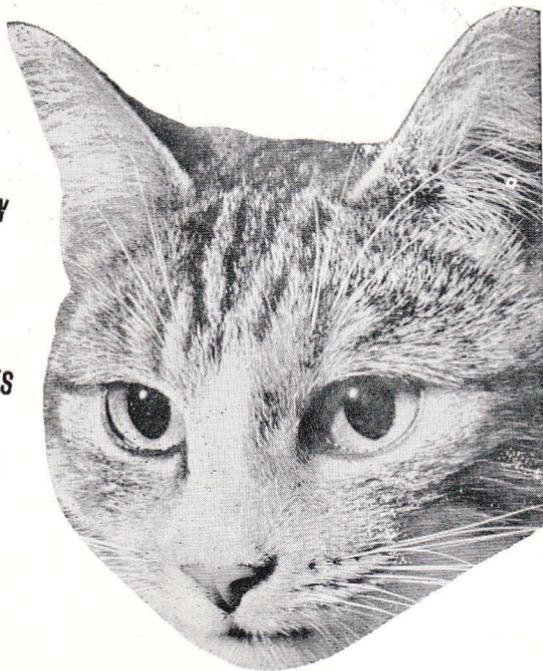
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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 2 No. 4

APRIL 1950

Published every month with the best-possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is:

- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management;
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world.

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

CAT HATERS ARE BUSY

WHILST there are cat lovers there will always be cat haters and cat baiters. Such is the way of our strange human world in which it is becoming increasingly popular to wear some pro this or anti that label. We must get used to this idea, I suppose, and at the same time keep an eye open and be ready for action at the first sign of any organised aggression aimed at the freedom and well-being of our beloved animals.

I reported the incident some time back when a cranky outfit styling themselves the Friends of Birds, Inc., nearly succeeded in getting their Marauding Cat Act passed into law in the American State of Illinois. It was vetoed at the eleventh hour by cat-loving Governor Stevenson. But it was a close shave for the cats of Illinois.

The Friends are now trying their luck in other States and generally making themselves a nuisance. California appears to be the latest target area and cat lovers there have been getting themselves organised to meet the threat. In yet another State—Massachusetts—a self-styled cat-hater and orchestra leader named William Crosby Kroner is demanding on behalf of the Taxpayers for Progress Association that the more than 2,000 cats in the State should be licensed the same as dogs.

Coming nearer home, we have had the amazing case of the decree issued by Pierre Pflimlin, former French Minister of Agriculture, which stated that any cat found wandering more than 200 metres from its home was to be regarded as a wild cat and treated accordingly. Very shortly after issuing this fantastic edict—fantastic even for this land of comic opera politics—Pflimlin resigned his office and cat lovers in France breathed again.

I tell of these incidents to prove that organised opposition can be a serious matter. Over here, thank goodness, we are a little more rational and tolerant about pet owning and at most we have to deal only with the spasmodic sniping of individual cat haters. One of these came out into the open the other day. He was none other than Stephen Williams, the well-known dramatic critic of the London "Evening News." Here's how it all started.

Those who know their "Saki" will remember Tobermory, the cat who suddenly found himself possessed of a human voice. The home truths he told at an important tea party caused utter consternation and some amusing situations. This idea has been taken and amplified in the comedy "The Lady Purrs," now running at the Embassy Theatre. But here the cat acquires both human voice and form and the party she upsets is a political one. Mr. Williams's review contains the following irrelevancies:—

"... I consider dogs and cats to be the most overrated creatures in existence. Indeed, it has always been a matter for mild surprise to me that Man, who is, as even Hamlet admitted, 'the paragon of animals,' should 'crook the pregnant hinges of the knee' to other animals, attributing to dogs a superior intelligence, devotion and fidelity and to cats a superior beauty, grace and independence. In a sense it is easy to understand the prestige of dogs. . . . Cats are rather different. They do not care two mews for human beings (except for the food they can wheedle out of them) and have therefore come in for human beings' wondering admiration. So independent! Hence, I suppose, this modish cult of cat worship by eminent artists, authors and composers, who have probably been pestered by noisy dogs in public-houses."

Mr. Williams, having pulled out the loud stops, is frank enough to confess that he runs the risk of being stoned to death by indignant animal-lovers. Although I rather grudge him the space, it would be interesting, I think, to have a little brick-heaving competition. So, to the writers of the two best letters in reply to Mr. Williams, OUR CATS will award a half-guinea prize.

Letters must not exceed 500 words. Closing date is 22nd May and the winning letters will appear in our June issue. Please throw your hardest and heaviest!

EDITOR



GENERAL INFORMATION: The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macaulay 1462).

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

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One of America's loveliest cats appears on our front cover. He is Solomon's Seal, an Orange-eyed White Male (born July, 1947) belonging to Mrs. Chas. Denhard, of Long Island, New York, and bred by Mrs. A. Lopez.

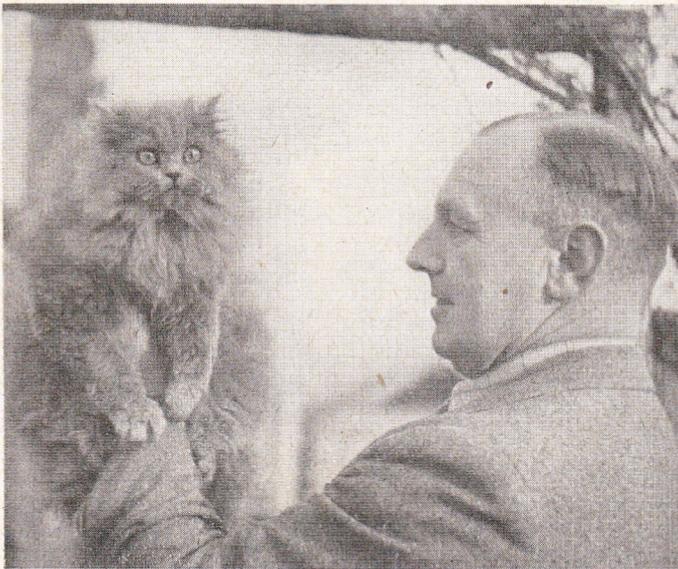
WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MR. FELIX TOMLINSON

ONE of the really gratifying features about this series since it began in our first issue in January last year has been the steady trickle of appreciative notes from cat lovers all over the world. It is obvious that these profiles of England's

Siamese stock in his country. He writes: "Your articles about the various breeders convince me that they have earned their successes."

Other readers want to know how long we propose to carry on with the series. The answer is: As long as "the stock" of Fan-



Felix Tomlinson with his favourite, Julie of Knott Hall.

best-known Fanciers are popular because (a) they have a human interest appeal, (b) they answer many questions for beginners and novices and (c) they serve as an incentive and a challenge.

Our latest correspondent is a well-known American Fancier from Los Angeles, whose chief interest is the improvement of

Fanciers holds out and as long as we are able to extract the requisite material and supporting pictures. Some of them, it may be recorded, are extremely shy of talking about their experiences!

As to the ground already covered, it is interesting to note that the eight Fanciers who have appeared in the series have an aggregate total of well over 200

years' experience in cat breeding. Just to refresh your memories, the eight personalities in order of appearance are Mrs. Duncan Hindley (January 1949 issue), Miss Evelyn Langston (February), Mrs. G. Campbell-Fraser (April), Miss Kathleen Yorke (June), Mrs. M. Estelle Oglethorpe (July), Mrs. E. Towe (October), Mrs. M. Brunton (December) and Miss M. L. Rodda (March, 1950). All ladies, you will note!

Enter Mere Man !

This month we break new ground by introducing mere man. He is Mr. Felix Tomlinson, a really popular and successful breeder of Blue Longhairs who conducts a poultry farm at Helpringham, a Lincolnshire village situated on the edge of the fen country. His Knott Hall Blues have for many years enjoyed a reputation for all that is best in the breed and a regard for quality rather than quantity has brought many notable successes on the show bench for his stock.

Mr. Tomlinson always leaves one with the impression that he is a man who has got a lot of pleasure and real interest from his hobby. His particular pride is the flourishing Notts. and Derbyshire Cat Club, in whose activities he has always taken a prominent rôle, but it would, indeed, be a strange Championship show in any part of the country without his genial presence as well as that of his great friend and fellow-judge, Mr. Jack Martin.

Once again our story opens in a quietly orthodox way. Here is Mr. Tomlinson recounting it for the readers of OUR CATS:—

My love for animals is doubtless due to the fact that I was born in the country and have lived in it without a break. I have kept all kinds of animals as pets and I usually had a cat—of sorts. My parents often gave me animals as presents and two of these were Blue kittens.

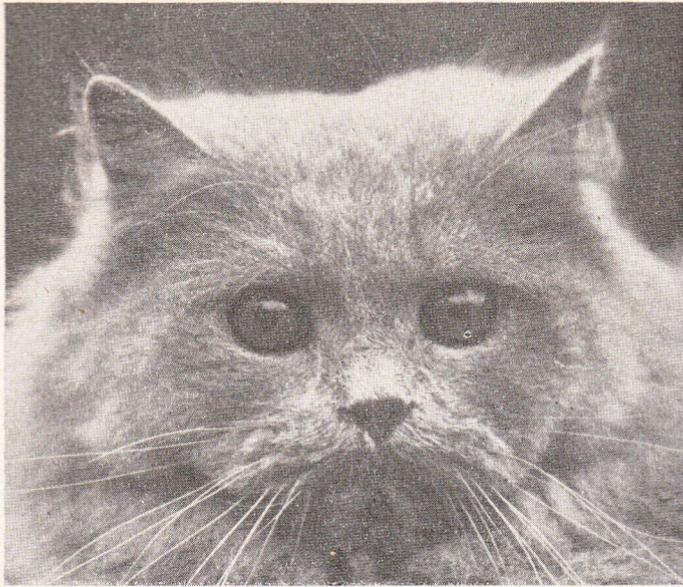
It was in 1919 that I really made a start as a breeder. I saw some Blue kittens advertised in "Exchange and Mart." I bought a female named Woolley Bear, a daughter of Blair Athol and Blue Tit of Downside. At that time I had no idea there was such an organisation as the Cat Fancy and I knew no one interested in the breeding of pedigree animals. The following year I had the idea that I would like to breed from my queen, but the question was: Where to find a stud?

Birth of an Affix

Eventually I managed to find the well-known cat Barry Bluejohn—just how it came about that I discovered this stud I haven't the least idea. In due course my first litter of kittens arrived and from that day to this I have never been without a home-bred Blue Longhair. It was through this visit to Barry Bluejohn that I first heard about the Fancy.

In those far-off days I registered only those kittens I intended keeping myself and it was some time later that I registered my affix Knott Hall, which happens to be the name of my house. I suppose it was the first thing that entered my head when I was trying to find a suitable name!

At odd periods I have bred Chinchillas, British and Russian Blues, but the Blue Longhair is



Champion JUNE OF KNOTT HALL was Best in Show at the 1932 Show held at Harrogate by the Yorkshire County Cat Club.

my favourite breed. When I look back on those early days I realise that I was the greenest of novices. My cats travelled by rail, unaccompanied to and from the shows and—I am ashamed to admit it—without a blanket or sanitary tin for their pens. The first shows I remember visiting were a Midland (held at Bedford) where I recall seeing that lovely Chinchilla Ch. Cupid of Hyver ; a National (at the Crystal Palace) where that wonderful Cream Ch. Buff of Hanley took my eye ; and a Yorkshire (at Harrogate), where I was lucky enough to win Best in Show with June of Knott Hall.

The year 1924 was an eventful one. I remember how excited I was to win the Blue Persian Cat Society miniature silver cup with Charm, best Blue kitten shown by a novice exhibitor. I still have

the cup and very proud I am of it, too. Unfortunately, I lost the kitten soon afterwards, which was a great disappointment. Perhaps my greatest thrill was the receipt of a telegram from the Secretary of the B.P.C.S. stating that June had won First and Champion. I am very happy to say that Miss Fisher is still Secretary to the Society and just as keen to help the novice as she was in those far-off days. Later that same year June won her final Certificate and was my first full Champion.

A more recent win by Knott Hall Blues which gave me considerable pleasure was the success of Vagabond, who made history by winning for Miss Crosher the first Premier title for neuters.

In common with most other Fanciers, I have had many disappointments. Those I felt most were the early deaths of June and

Julie, both accidentally run over and killed.

To those about to start in the Fancy and who have not decided upon a breed, I would suggest a visit to some of the Championship shows. Having settled on a variety, the next step is to join the specialist club catering for that particular breed. I am sure that the secretary and members of the club will be ready to give advice and help in the purchase of stock. I have never regretted

chance at the shows with the experienced breeder.

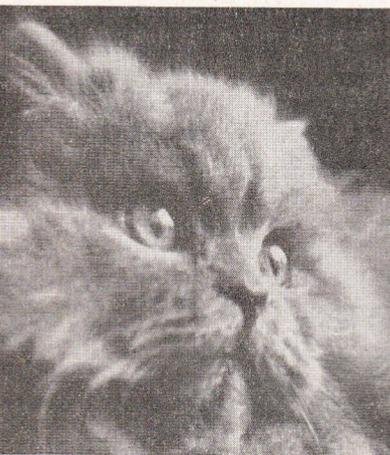
Everyone should be prepared to give as well as to take from the Fancy. Then they will find cat breeding and exhibiting a delightful hobby. Don't expect to make a fortune. Fortunate indeed is the Fancier who can make his hobby pay its way.

The Blue Longhair has improved in type tremendously since my early days, but on the whole eye colour and stamina are not what they were. My queen used to have two litters a year without any trouble and I hardly ever lost a kitten. It is a different story to-day.

Rush to the Show

Although I live in a seemingly remote part of the country away from the big centres of club activities, I am particularly lucky to have such a friend and enthusiast as Jack Martin living in the same village. We spend many happy hours together talking cats, visiting shows and travelling on various missions. We have shared all sorts of experiences, some of them quite amusing. We have sat many times in the refreshment room at Kings Cross in the early hours of the morning, drinking tea while the floor was being washed all around us.

I remember years ago we were exhibiting at Croydon and Jack Martin came complete with kittens to spend the night with me so that we might be ready to start off at 5 a.m. the next morning. We overslept in spite of two alarm clocks and so missed the first train. However, we set off by car for Peterborough, 30 miles away, for the connection there. It was a foggy morning and before we had gone very far we had



TALISMAN OF KNOTT HALL
(Best Blue Male kitten at the Croydon Show in 1948) is now in France. At the recent Paris show he was placed second in the Open Class for Blue Males to Ch. Southway Nicholas, bred by Mr. Jack Martin.

joining the B.P.C.S., whose officials and members have been most helpful and kind to me through the years.

To make a start on the right lines, I would advise the beginner to buy a female kitten of the highest possible breeding and if one can afford one possessing show points, so much the better. The novice in the Cat Fancy with decent stock stands an equal

a puncture. The train had gone when eventually we arrived at Peterborough, so we resigned ourselves to a long wait for the next train. When we finally emerged at Kings Cross, we decided to have a taxi, thinking it might be quicker travelling than underground. A traffic jam held us up again. Judging was in full swing when we reached the show hall. But we were allowed to pen our kittens and, so far as I

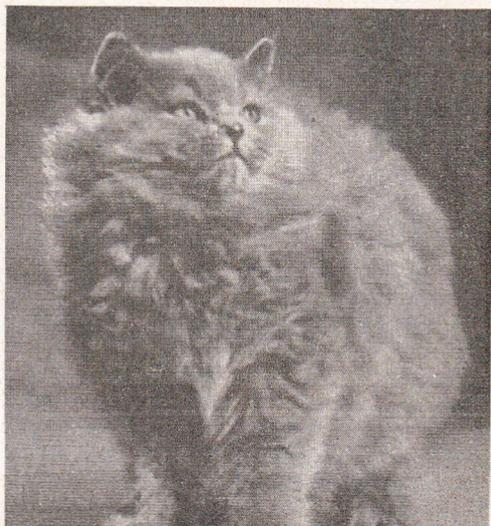
can remember, we had quite a good day!

On another occasion we travelled for half an hour in the wrong direction underground, which made us late for a stewarding assignment at the Siamese Show. We were not very popular with the Show Manager, but all was soon forgiven and we have since officiated at other shows and managed to beat the clock!

★

A bonny Blue Longhair kitten bred at the Danehurst Cattery of Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., who hopes soon to leave the Isle of Wight for a spot in the South of England.

★



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Annual premiums from 14s. 9d. per animal

This is the first time that a serious attempt has been made to cater for the insurances of Felines, and already it is clear that the new insurance is greatly appreciated.

Write for Brochure H—sent gratis upon application

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Kitten Management

By KATHLEEN YORKE

LAST month's instalment ended with the kittens having reached the fifth week stage. Now they will be looking round to see what mother is eating. So put her food up on a table so that the kittens cannot get to it. Start the kits eating steamed or lightly boiled fish at six weeks old, about a good teaspoonful to start with once a day plus two little milk feeds. Some people mash in wheat flakes with the fish ; it is very good for the kittens.

At eight weeks, if you can get rabbit, boil it very gently until tender, pick from the bone and give this occasionally. Also, for a change, some scraped raw horse-flesh is splendid, but it must be of the "for human consumption" kind. The other sort is dangerous and will set up all kinds of internal troubles.

To develop the jaw and help the teeth through, I always give a good-sized piece of raw meat. It provides exercise for the kittens and helps their digestion ; so, too, does a large chop bone with some meat on it. When the kits tire, take the pieces from them and cut them up for mother's supper, collect any bones and burn them.

Watch should now be kept for the cutting of teeth, which starts for the second teeth about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 months and goes on often to 7 months, when all teeth should be through. Some kittens go

through this period very quickly and are not at all upset. Others may take longer and get sore mouths. If a kit is off its food, look in the mouth, and if the gums look inflamed and tender, bathe them with warm water to which you have added T.C.P. A kitten will often eat immediately after this treatment. T.C.P. is safe and effective in many ways ; a sore throat responds very quickly to this remedy.

Sometimes two teeth will be in the same place and the old one is not able to fall out, thus causing a lot of pain. Try to work out the old tooth, bathing the gum with T.C.P., which deadens the pain and acts as a healer.

If a big litter, the kittens should be weaned at 8 to 9 weeks. Do this gradually, otherwise it is very hard on the mother and her milk glands will harden and cause her suffering. Take her away for a few hours at a time each day and each day or two make the break a little longer. Put the mother back at night. Then take her away at night and return her to her kittens for a short while in the morning, so that should she have any milk the kits can suckle it away. They should never suckle her after they have eaten meals nor should they have a milk feed for at least four hours after a meat meal. This routine prevents acidity and consequent digestive troubles.

When the mother is taken away for the night give a late little feed



A triumph in kitten rearing exemplified by ANLABY BEAU, handsome Cream youngster belonging to Mrs. K. Carbert, of Stockport Lane, York. Beau was Best Exhibit at the 1949 Glasgow Show after winning at the Bingley and Sandy Shows.

of Benger's, Midlothian Oat Flour or Farex and milk to satisfy them, as up to now the kittens have been feeding from her at least once during the night. This last feed will help keep them from being too hungry in the morning.

You will find that after a week to ten days the kittens will have settled down and that the mother will not want to feed them. She will naturally want to clean and play with them. Some mothers are terribly upset when taken from their babies. You must then try to keep her with you as much as possible, making a great fuss of her but preventing her from seeing the kittens. It is always a

sad time when you have to part them.

I have a Chinchilla mother and her son of over five years old and I have never been able to part them. It was just impossible! I eventually gave in to them and to this day she does most of his cleaning for him and curls down beside him each night.

Just a few final words of advice on the important subject of grooming. You should start grooming kittens at an early age so that in later life they will not resent it. There must be no harsh brushing and combing. Take a kit in your lap, let it play with the brush or comb or a woolly

toy whilst you carefully groom the frill, back, sides, tummy and tail. Hold each leg up and comb under to keep any fur from matting. If this is done daily, they will learn to expect and appreciate it.

With a piece of clean cotton wool for each kitten, wipe each eye and each ear out and occasionally dab the wool on boracic powder before doing the ears. This keeps them clean and free from grease.

Worm Treatment

At eight weeks old, give homoeopathic cina-anth drops in case of worms. All kittens should have this. Mrs. Brunton told me of this precautionary treatment several years ago and I have handed it on to others. Give the dose in the morning when the kitten's tummy is empty, having left no food about during the night. No starving is necessary. Doses are: 8 weeks, 2 drops; 10 weeks, 3 drops; 3 months, 4 drops; 4 to 6 months, 5 drops; 7 months, 6 drops; 10 months and over, 7 or 8 drops. These doses should be given three consecutive days before breakfast. Repeat in a week, then give fortnightly up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ months, then monthly or as required.

It is most important to keep cats and kittens free from fleas. Anaemia is caused through these pests sucking into the skin and drawing away blood, and if it is not stopped will cause the death of a kitten. I have seen, though fortunately not very often, a kitten's coat choked with flea dirt and fleas, and when I have pointed this out to the owners they have said that they never noticed it! It is a disgraceful thing to allow a kitten to get into

this state. The coat is harsh and short and takes a long time to get right and the health of the kitten suffers in no uncertain manner.

Worms are also caused through fleas. The kitten cleans itself, licking through the fur and biting into the body to stop irritation, swallows the flea and thus the cycle of the tapeworm starts. As long as kittens have worms they will never have healthy insides, grow strong, or have long, soft-textured coats.

I always dose my cats three times a year and they are always healthy and clean internally and externally. If you see kittens with diarrhoea it is nearly always caused by worms and not by wrong feeding.

Biscuits help Teeth

As your kittens grow up, increase the size of their meals and if they eat them up quickly you can give still more. If some is left, give a little less for the next feed. Boiled rice is very good for kittens and mixed with their fish or rabbit is very much appreciated. Barley also is good and barley water made from Robinson's Patent Barley is a good drink in place of water sometimes. And if at any time of their lives they have kidney and bladder trouble they would readily take to it if they have had it as kittens. You can also mix barley water with the milk food.

Fine biscuit meal of a good proprietary make like Spratt's (but not a *malted* one) can be used at about four months old. Soaked in fish water or rabbit broth and a little mixed with the fish, rabbit or meat is liked very much. It must not be liquid. Keep solid feeds dry and milky feeds liquid; this is an important thing to remember.

Personally, I have never used biscuit, but I have seen some of the finest and healthiest kittens that have been fed in this way and I confess that I could not have raised better myself; they were a credit to their breeders. If you can get Spratt's cod liver oil puppy biscuits, these crushed up and moistened and mixed with the food are excellent for older kittens, two or three times a week. Given in largish pieces dry for the kittens to gnaw at, *they are excellent to help the teeth through.* In the past, I have had mother cats take the biscuits out of my dog's bowl and carry them off to their kittens. I

always found them chewing away at them and thoroughly enjoying life. Mother knows what is best!

Always have fresh, clean water for your pets to drink. When you start putting it down, use a shallow bowl, otherwise the kittens like to play in it.

I hope these few notes will be helpful to many. They are intended for household pets as well as for kittens being bred for show. I wish you all a very good breeding season with many lovely kittens. *For my friends abroad,* who have often asked me to write an article along these lines, I hope I have managed to tell them all they want to know.

America's New Wonder Drug

AN interesting story about aeuromycin, America's new wonder drug, is told by Vera Wetmore in the March issue of "Cats Magazine." It opens on an apprehensive note: "With springtime and baby kittens arriving, many of us are looking forward with some apprehension, wondering what new and awful disease may descend to destroy all our hopes and plans, to say nothing of an entire season's work."

The writer goes on to describe her sad experiences last autumn when her kittens began sneezing. Two eventually died and suddenly it occurred to her that the dreaded virus X—something that is talked about, but of which we know so little—had struck. She remembered that when her daughter had virus pneumonia in the summer the doctor had treated her successfully with aeuromycin, so she approached her veterinarian for a supply of the drug.

"He assured me that it was too expensive to give to cats and dogs. Therefore he never used it. Expensive! Nothing was too expensive for my kits. Already I had lost more than \$150 worth of kittens and there were six remaining. Two of these were the very best. I valued each at \$50. But now even they were beginning to droop. I was panicky!

"Aeuromycin costs about \$17.50 a bottle or about one dollar (7s. 8d.) per capsule. The doctor suggested half a capsule every twelve hours."

Vera Wetmore goes on to describe how she administered the dose in some ground steak and how she finally fixed the dosage at a quarter of a capsule every six hours. Treatment went on for from four to six days and in every case the patients steadily improved with their breathing and appetite. Soon they were all in perfect health."

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the last day of the month* preceding the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to **OUR CATS MAGAZINE**, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9. Use of Box No. costs 1/- extra.

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THE DUNLOE RUSSIAN BLUES. Lovely Shorthaired Kittens.—Miss Rochford, 25 Rudall Crescent, Hampstead, N.W.3 Tel.: HAM 6498.

SIAMESE S.P. Kittens by Ch. Hillcross Song ex Laurentide Ludo (sire Larchwood Clover). Ready end of May, bookings taken now.—Mrs. Hargreaves, Valleyfields, Woldingham, Surrey.

SIAMESE Kittens, Seal Point, Male and Female, good pedigree, from 4 gns.—Mrs. Webber, 378 Banbury Road, Oxford. Phone 5292.

SINGAN BLUE POINTED SIAMESE. Exceptionally strong kittens for showing or breeding.—Mrs. Harrap, Kildare Cottage, Mill Gap Road, Eastbourne.

SIAMESE S.P. Kittens, male and female, lovely specimens, good pedigree, 4 gns.—Widall, la Winehaven, Undercliffe, Sandgate, Kent.

EXQUISITE BLUE PERSIAN Kittens, dam Valleyend Vanessa, sire Robin of Pensford.—Miss Statman, 4 Anson Road, Cricklewood. Gla 2056.

Miscellaneous

WARNING TO OWNERS. Never dispose of cats unless you are certain they are going to a good home. There is a big demand for cats by the vivisectors and also by the fur trade. In both cases they are liable to suffer revolting cruelty. For further information apply:—National Anti-Vivisection Society, 92 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

THE TAIL-WAGGER MAGAZINE, the monthly British Dog Magazine for dog owners and dog lovers everywhere. Fully illustrated and complete with informative features and instructive articles. Annual subscription 7s. 6d. (inc. postage) for twelve issues.—The Tail-Wagger Magazine, 356-360, Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

At Stud

SCO-RUSTON RAVISANT (Blue Persian), sire Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas, dam Sco-Ruston Kalisa.

REDWALLS JACK FROST (Chinchilla), sire Ch. Foxburrow Tilli-Willi, dam Redwalls Snowstorm, prizewinner every time shown 1948/50.

MOLESEY ALI BABA (Cream Persian), sire Tweedledum of Dunesk, dam Molesey Mischief. Fee for each stud £2 2s. and carriage to registered queens only.—Gordon B. Alt, F.Z.S., Danehurst Cattery, Pitts Lane, Binstead, near Ryde, I.O.W. Ryde 2794 (2½ hours from London).

BOURNESIDE CATTERY, Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey. Tel., Burgh Heath 2754. **PELHAM PUFFBALL**, Cream L.H., sire Ch. Widdington Warden, dam Pelham Hazel. Siring winning Creams and Blue Creams. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

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SOMERSET. Enjoy your Holidays with your Pets by booking a Caravan. Beautiful country, high position, quiet, private, with lovely extensive views. Terms 6 and 8 gns., including linen, etc.—Glenmar Caravans, Bowdens, Langport. Phone Langport 53.

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WANTED, RED TABBY Longhaired Tom Kitten, really good home.—Synge, The Old Rectory, Gt. Barrow, Chester.

WANTED for Good Home, high-class **TABBY** or pure Shorthair Queen or Neuter, not over two years old or less six months, house-trained. Good price for really good cat.—Mrs. Holt, Riversdale Road, Liverpool, 19.

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Obtainable only from . . . THE EDITOR (KIT WILSON)
“THE LOFT” 18 SOUTH END KENSINGTON W.8

A page for the proletarian puss No. 1



See the kitten on the wall
Sporting with the leaves that fall,
Withered leaves, one, two and three,
From the lofty elder tree!

Wordsworth Watches a Kitten at Play.

We have pleasure in presenting a new feature which we hope will give universal pleasure. Each month a page will be set aside for some photographic gem of the ordinary cat in all its moods and graces. Aristocrats will be rigidly excluded from this feature! For this month's contribution we are indebted to Miss Kathleen Rumsey, of Twickenham, who has employed her camera to good advantage in capturing the outdoor contortions of this little Tabby kitten.

Colour Inheritance

By ALBERT C. JUDE

IN the last article I drew attention to some cases where neither parent could be considered as a dominant—cases where the hybrid, instead of showing a dominant character, shows a mixture of the dominant and recessive, or something intermediate between the two.

Sometimes, even when the inheritance of a character is known to follow Mendel's law, most unexpected results come from certain matings. In rabbits, for instance, the wild agouti is known to dominate the black, so that the black cannot carry agouti. Black in rabbits is also dominant to white. In most crosses between these blacks and whites, the offspring are all black, as would be expected; but sometimes some, or all of them, are agouti. *This* seems contrary to Mendel's law.

The agouti character, however, appears to be the result of the interaction of three different kinds of determiners, or factors, two which together produce black, and one which causes ticking of the hairs, and so changes black into agouti. If the factors for black are present *without* the ticking factor, the animal is black. If, however, the ticking factor is also present, the animal is agouti. These factors behave quite separately in inheritance. They may be together, or any one may be present in an albino animal, but

naturally, in the absence of colour, it has no visible effect.

But if a black rabbit is crossed with a white one which carries the factor for ticking, then the black factors and the ticking factor may come together at fertilisation and so produce an agouti instead of the expected black.

An even more surprising result is obtained when two pure-bred albinos give coloured progeny. This may happen with rabbits, cavies, rats or mice. Yet albinism is a pure Mendelian recessive to all factors. An albino is white because there is no colour in its constitution. How, then, can two albinos give coloured offspring?

Occasionally, sports arise—individuals with new characters. These new characters often seem to be the result of the loss of one or more factors from the germ cell of the parent. Black has almost certainly arisen from the wild grey, or agouti, by the loss of the ticking factor. And black itself seems to be the result of the interaction between a factor which gives rise to a colour base and one which gives rise to a colour developer.

A strain of albinos may therefore arise from a strain of blacks by the sudden loss of the colour developer, and these albinos will still carry the factor for the colour base. Bred amongst themselves,

however, they will remain perfectly true breeding for albinism, for the whole strain will lack the colour developer. They will breed true for generation after generation if bred amongst themselves, for none of them possesses the colour base.

If, however, members of these two different true breeding strains are mated together, they will give black offspring, for at fertilisation the factor for the colour base and the factor for colour developer will be brought together, and colour will consequently develop in the resulting individual.

No Albino Cats

Once more, I repeat, these cases are instances which *at first* seem to contradict Mendel's theory—these "throw-backs" or reversions to ancestral type. By complicated experiment it is possible to trace out the history of the different factors involved, and to show that, together or apart, they are steadily following Mendel's law through generation after generation.

Albinos are unpigmented regardless of any other colour genes which they may carry. They are distinguished from other forms of white by their pink eyes. Mated together normally, albinos produce only albinos, because the factor for colour development is absent. *But when an albino is mated with a coloured animal the factor for colour development is introduced, and all the progeny of this first generation are coloured.*

The colours will be in accordance with normal colour inheritance, depending on the colour of the coloured parent and that hidden in the albino. The second

generation can produce some albinos. This kind of white is then recessive to colour. *Recessive* white is present with many kinds of animals. The wild pattern coat is dominant to black, and any coloured coat is dominant to white.

But in the Cat Fancy we have no albinos. The nearest recognised approach is either the Orange-eyed White or the Blue-eyed White. Although orange eye is above blue eye in order of dominance, both act in one respect similarly to albino. When mated together they produce only Whites. *But if we mate a White cat to a coloured cat we can expect some Whites in the first generation.* This type of white is known as dominant white.

In this series we still have the wild (tabby) coat dominant to black, but here the white is dominant to any colour.

White Patches

When crossing self-coloured cats, or tabby cats, with dominant white, white patches occur. These areas of whiteness tend to appear in rather definite positions—the blaze, chin, chest, feet, top of head, and on the belly. Instances of this are very frequently seen in the mongrel or "garden" cat, and when this kind of white marking is well established it becomes difficult to eliminate, or at least several generations of breeding are needed before "pure" breeding is again reached. White patches of this sort or even white hairs are looked upon as a fault by the Fancy, and rightly so.

A present-day example of dominant white patch in our pedigree cats is that displayed by

most Abyssinians. Not long ago I was asked if I felt it was right that in the Standard of Points for Abyssinians it should be set out that the white is not allowable. From the Fancy point of view, I do feel that the standard is right in stating the white to be such a definite fault, even though the Abyssinian in its native haunts is rarely seen minus the white.

It should be the aim to produce strains of Abyssinians entirely clear of the white. But where such a condition exists in a Standard, it is up to the powers-that-be to encourage breeders to do what is necessary to eliminate the considered fault, otherwise the desired improvement will not be reached.

It seems absurd that Championships can be granted to these faulty animals. The fact does not encourage the breeder to rid the fault. It brings to mind that, as opposed to this, a Siamese with a kink in its tail is disqualified.

The only way to eliminate dominant white from Abyssinians is to breed only with those cats which show least white. In due course the fault will disappear, just as it did from some of our popular self-coloured cats which we now have.

How long will a cat stay up a tree? Sammy, who hails from Arizona, climbed a palm tree and refused to come down for twenty days. Report says that even the Fire Brigade couldn't get him down. Eventually someone hit on the idea of cutting away the fronds and letting them droop downwards. Came a night of drenching rain and Sammy slid down to earth and home.

FUR COATS WORN

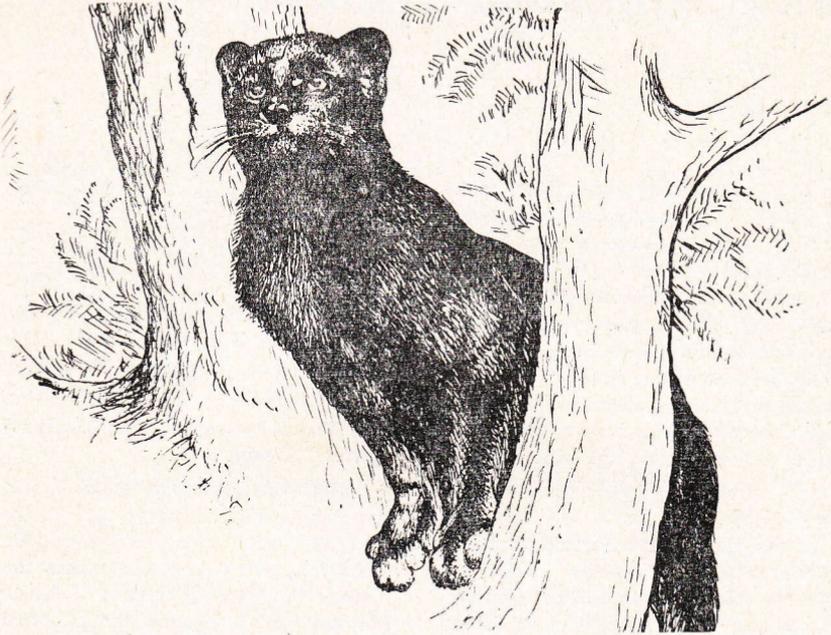
AT 90° F.!

The Natal Cat Club held their first local Show last month in the City Hall, Durban, in a temperature of between 80 and 90 degrees. Huge fans turned incessantly and all windows were wide open, but these aids failed to keep the temperature down to a comfortable level. About 25 cats and possibly 200 spectators were expected for this first venture. The Committee was overwhelmed by the arrival of 56 entries and over 1,100 spectators! In they streamed and crowded round the exhibits, until finally the doorkeepers were obliged to stop selling tickets.

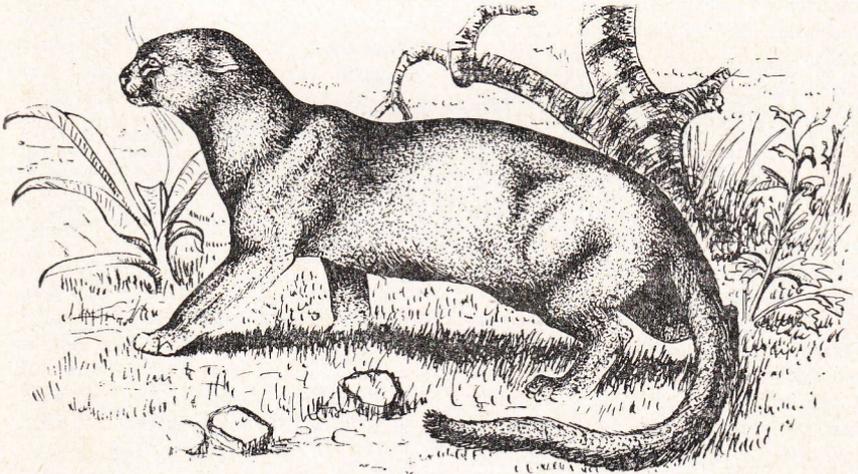
Inside, the spectators milled backwards and forwards in their efforts to see the cats. There were many left outside and disappointed. The three judges had a most difficult time as the elaborate efforts the Club had made to clear one half of the room where judging was taking place all **came to grief!** These harassed officials are to be greatly praised for the painstaking and ungrumbling way they fulfilled their anything but easy task.

Mrs. Lombard's Longhaired Red queen won the Cup for Best in Show after having been placed First in the Kitten under 9 months class. There were also various classes for Siamese, Longhairs, Household Pets and Pets of Children under 15. Mrs. Scott, of Rosburgh, exhibited her Siamese queen with a family of eight beautifully evenly-grown kittens (believed to be a South African record). This exhibit received much admiration.

It was a most successful effort for a first Show, but the Club hope the next will be in a cooler spot on a cooler day!



THE ONZA



JAGUARONEI

Here's another Gang Story

The Mightiest Hunter

By PHYLLIS LAUDER

IT is a surprising thing that cats, who so love extreme warmth, are not particularly averse from going out in cold weather. In a severe winter it is not unusual to see a tail advancing, like a periscope on wheels, above the earth's white surface, while its unseen owner forges a way through inches of snow. Indeed, in our village the cats are inclined to go hunting in the winter, though it is not the season for the young animals which make easy prey.

It was the Vicar who said that he wondered what they would catch and kill this year. We were in the Church porch, and he was showing us some rather interesting dolls. The old lady who owns Skittles had come to see the dolly Holy Family which is always used for the crèche at the Christmas children's service, and which the Vicar had had cleaned and was putting away.

"They are very beautiful dolls," she said. "They look old."

"They are old," agreed the Vicar, "and there are others older still."

He ran up the steps to the tower and brought down a boxful of grotesque puppets. He did not know their date, but with the exception of St. John, who wore a red robe and was not too bad-looking, they were all ugly, though beautifully worked. There was even a hideous representation of Satan.

The Vicar said that they were outrageous and belonged to another age, but had, of course, antiquarian value. He closed them into their box and

put them away in a little cupboard in the tower room just under the belfry. He complained that there were rats in the Church, and I said that perhaps the cats would kill them.

"They'll kill something!" said the Vicar. "They always do, this time of year! I wonder which of them will bring in the finest catch?"

"Blitz is by way of being a mighty hunter," I said.

"Old Harry's very good," said the Vicar's wife, rising at once to the Ancient One's defence. She added: "Skittles, of course, is much too young to catch things," which brought an indignant denial from Skittles' devoted owner.

"Let's watch them till the end of the month," laughed the Vicar, "and see which gets the best bag. . . .!"

From then on the competitive spirit had us in its grip. The days passed; the cats went out and about. . . . Blondie, of the blue eyes and boots, disgraced me. She caught a large bird. I don't know if she considers me inconsistent to purr at mice and growl at birds; maybe she thinks I like the taste of mouse better than that of bird!

I was proud of Blitz—he slew two rats, one of them not much smaller than Blondie. I praised him till his whiskers stood out like a sunburst from his seal mask, and I claimed that he had brought in the best bag.

But the Vicar's wife would not have this, for Old Harry is a seasoned campaigner, and he had carried home two rabbits, one for himself and one

for the pot. We argued as to the respective merits of the usefulness of rabbits as food and the usefulness of destroying the destructive rats. We went to the Church, where the Vicar had just concluded a vestry meeting, and told him all about it.

"You must agree," said the Vicar's wife, "that two large rabbits——"

"Blitz's rats were large," I interrupted firmly.

The Vicar looked worried; he said he could hear a cat somewhere in the Church, but he could not locate the animal.

"Charles," said his wife, listening, "it's up in the belfry; I can hear it. It may be trapped in some way!" She started towards the tower stairs.

As she approached them, an apparition, uttering the war-whoop of the successful hunter, appeared on the steps above her. It had tabby rosettes on its white head; it wore "St. John's" red cloak slantwise across its back; it was snarling joyously athwart the prey between its jaws. . . . We realised that the Vicar could not have closed the cupboard in the tower room properly. . . . Alas! poor puppets. . . !

As the triumphant slayer advanced towards us, the chances of Blitz and Old Harry receded into the background; for Skittles, appropriately attired in hunting pink, *had killed the Devil!*

Extracts from "The Countryman"

Cats, writes Richard Morse, are pronounced individualists, and are well known to acquire peculiar tastes, traits and habits. I once had a cat that developed a passion for cucumber, and I have known of others that were enraptured over olive oil, hawk-moths and other unexpected things. Another seemed never so happy as when stroking a piece of glass, such as a window pane. Usually, however, when a domesticated cat takes to eating grass or other plants, it is because there is insufficient roughage in its diet and it is seeking to restore balance. The wild cat gets this roughage from the fur, feathers and bones of its victims; the tame cat often gets little or none. Its food tends to be much too concentrated. The cat that eats dry heather would probably prefer fresh green grass if it could get it. When cats are much confined to the house, especially in large towns, it is a good plan to grow a pot or box of grass* for them.

A remarkable four-cornered fight is reported by Captain W. Scott-Moncrieff, Suffolk. Hearing an indescribable hubbub—a mixture of screams and chatterings, with the shrill squeal of a rabbit running through it—he and his wife dropped their garden tools and ran to the scene. First they saw two magpies swooping, screaming and mobbing something that looked like a greyish ball, which turned out to be their pedigree Blue Longhair cat, grappling with something on the ground. As they approached the magpies flew off, and the cat stood up proudly with a stoat in her mouth.

They then saw a rabbit a little beyond her still sitting down screaming, so they walked on and picked it up, still too frightened or mesmerised to move. The cat brought the stoat back to the house and dropped it on the doormat. They prodded it and it appeared quite dead. Then suddenly they saw an eye open, a head lift, and like a flash the stoat was away.

(* *The Cats Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks, will supply packets of Cocksfoot Grass Seed for this purpose.—Editor.*)

Fanciers meet in support of the **OLYMPIA SHOW**

By THE EDITOR

NEWs about the Olympia Cat and Kitten Show to take place on 20th and 21st September next is rather sparse at the moment because so many preliminaries have to be finalised before the broader outline can possibly take shape and before official pronouncements can be released. I hope to have much more to say about the event in next month's issue by which time the preparation of the Schedule for intending exhibitors should be well forward. Meanwhile, there is no lack of "behind the scenes" activity and I shall have some very interesting news items to pass on in the very near future.

The promoters—Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Macdonald—held a tea-party in London last month. The attendance was most encouraging as about sixty guests were present and these represented an influential cross-section of the English Cat Fancy. In addition, a number of messages were received from absentees who promised their wholehearted support for the project. These included letters from Mr. P. M. Soderberg, Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council, Miss F. A. Dixon and Mr. G. B. Allt, F.Z.S.

Special arrangements are being made to encourage visitors from overseas. Officials from the various clubs and societies will be given privileges and hospitality calculated to make their visit to Olympia a memorable one. They are invited to get in touch with Mr. Macdonald, Woodgate, London Road, Ewell, Surrey, for fuller details.

Enquiries for stall concessions at the Show continue to come in from commercial firms and services. This interest is, of course, an encouraging sign and one that the promoters will seek to develop to the fullest extent.

A Siamese Cat Club of Australia has been started in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and the first show is fixed to take place in the City Town Hall in June. Joint Hon. Secretaries are Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, of Hawthorn, Melbourne, who have recently imported some Seal and Blue Points from England. These are expected to be a great attraction at the show.

The Simon Memorial Plaque, designed and presented by Miss Elizabeth Muntz, has been unveiled in the Plymouth P.D.S.A. Dispensary. The plaque is in Purbeck stone with Simon's head in relief, surrounded by a laurel leaf copied from the Dickin Medal (the animal's V.C.), of which Simon of the Amethyst is the only cat holder. Words from his citation are carved below.



Thomas Fall

A CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Lovely Chinchilla female Champion LANGHERNE WINSOME, exhibited so successfully by her owner, Miss Audrey Steer, deserves her title of "Pin-up Girl of the Cat Fancy." Winsome won the title of Champion of Champions at the 1949 Croydon Cat Club Show. She is now twelve years old and this splendid photograph of her was taken specially for OUR CATS in January last.

AMBASSADORS OF GOODWILL . . .



In 1931, Mrs. G. Campbell Fraser, granddaughter of the Earl of Airlie, made history by journeying to America to judge at the Connecticut Cat Club Show at New Haven. Mrs. Fraser, one of our most respected and experienced breeders, writers and judges, now lives quietly at her Godalming (Surrey) home. Appearing with her in this "going away" picture is her daughter, Miss Lelgarde Fraser, who is following in her mother's footsteps as judge, breeder and exhibitor of Longhairs.

The fourth representative of the English Cat Fancy to judge in America was Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb, of Richmond, popular breeder of Siamese and Treasurer of the Siamese Cat Club, who was invited over by the Empire Cat Club, Inc., to officiate at the National Siamese Cat Club Specialty Show held in New York last December. Those who preceded Mr. Stirling-Webb to America were Mr. Louis Wain (Prince of English Illustrators), Miss Frances Simpson, famous breeder, author and judge, and Mrs. Campbell Fraser. Louis Wain went over in 1908 and created a sensation by giving Best Cat Award to a Siamese female.



Universal Lens-craft



Latest migrant is our contributor, Mrs. Joan Thompson, who has just returned home after an extended visit to the United States. She judged at the 48th Championship Show of the Atlantic Cat Club held in New York in January and spent several weeks visiting leading Fanciers in the Eastern part of America.

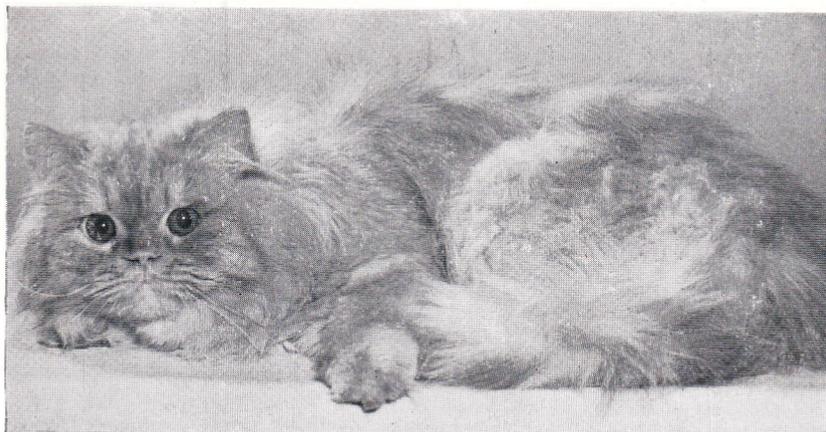
Keystone



New York Times Photo

SPRING FASHION NOTE FROM PARIS!

An International cat show has just been held in Paris on behalf of the War Blind Union. Our photograph shows one of the attractive entries—Xahian de Laborde, an irregular Persian female.



Nellys, New York

Champion LONGHILL'S RED TREASURE, one of the many fine thorough-breds owned by Mr. Anthony De Santis, of Oakland, New Jersey, whose stock is winning many premier awards at American shows.



Sunday Express

This is Champion VECTENSIAN COPPER EYES (born 1947), Miss Pat Tucker's Red Tabby Shorthair with a remarkable record. She was first shown at a small mixed show at Banstead, Surrey. The judges were so impressed by her qualities that they persuaded Miss Tucker, then a complete novice, to enter Copper Eyes at the Championship shows. She was duly entered—to walk away with premier honours at Croydon Show in 1948 and at the Southern Counties and Croydon again in 1949. One of her daughters, Rio Tinto, is also winning all along the line.

Care & Management by P. M. SODERBERG

Vice - Chairman of the Governing
Council of the Cat Fancy and
Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club

47 Years Ago!

ON several occasions during recent years Cyril Yeates told me that he wished me to have his cat records and early periodicals when he had no further use for them. Unfortunately that time has now come, and during the past few days I have spent considerable time in looking over the very valuable material which he has left me.

I do not wish here to write his obituary because I know that others will have already done that, but I should like to put on record my personal debt of gratitude to him. Had it not been for Cyril Yeates it is most unlikely that I should ever have written a book on cats. The book which I eventually wrote was one which, in the years just before the last war, he intended to write himself. This was never written because of the events which followed September, 1939.

It was, however, his inspiration and encouragement which persuaded me to undertake a task for which I felt quite honestly that I had but limited qualifications. He read with the utmost care every word that I wrote, and provided me with criticism which at times was devastating

but which was always constructive. What success that book may have achieved owes much to my friendship with the man who knew more about cats than I shall ever know.

As I write I have in front of me the Christmas number of "Our Cats" for 1903. I have read it from cover to cover, and I feel certain that present-day readers of the new OUR CATS would find it as enthralling as it has been to me.

The title page bears a portrait of Louis Wain, who was then Chairman of the National Cat Club. No one will ever forget the genius of Louis Wain, whose cat drawings set a standard which has never been surpassed. Few, perhaps, will remember the tragedy which clouded the last years of this brilliant artist.

The end of 1903 and the beginning of the next year were periods of upheaval in the Cat Club, for there is a long account from a London daily paper setting out the reasons why Lady Marcus Beresford had decided to leave the Cat Fancy. Here, too, are illustrations of cats whose names I have never before heard. Ch. Fulmer Laida lies somewhat

disconsolately amidst a veritable heap of trophies, while behind her is a cloth covered with some twenty to thirty medals which she had won.

Silver Tabbies at this time must have been very popular and Miss

Silvers and Smokes were good, but the popular breeds of 1950 were far behind present-day standards and none would stand a chance on the show bench. Some of them excel in coat, but all fail in size of ears and width of skull.



This sketch of a roguish kitten is a typical example of Louis Wain's art. It will doubtless bring back pleasant memories among those of our readers who are old enough to remember the events of the early 1900's. In those days "Our Cats" flourished as a twopenny weekly and Louis Wain was a frequent contributor.

Montefiore's Baby Abdul and Mrs. Kyle Battley's Silverette both seem to be better specimens of this breed than any which I have seen since the war. The

I have been following up the history of Blues by tracing the illustrations from year to year, and it appears that there was no gradual improvement in type.

Quite suddenly what the scientist would call a variation appeared, and there was one outstanding cat. His influence can be traced during the next few years, and then there seems to be another period of little or no progress until another animal of unusual quality appears on the scene. It would be interesting to see if this impression is the correct one ; to try to prove that development of type is like going up a series of steps rather than up a continuous inclined plane.

But to return to the Christmas number for 1903!

Mrs. Bishop regretted that there were so few prizes for neuters at the shows. Was that a voice calling which Cyril Yeates answered? No one ever did more for the neuter than he did.

No Siamese Then !

What is called the " Epitome of the Year " provides information of wide interest. At the Westminster Show on 8th January there were very few Blues, but the Silver classes were excellent. There were no Siamese entries and all the classes had to be cancelled. On the second day of this show a meeting was held as a result of which it was declared desirable that the National Cat Club and the Cat Club should be amalgamated.

In February, " Our Cats " was increased in size and the price was increased to twopence, while in

the following month a less radical step was taken, for the colour of its pages was changed from pink to white.

It was in March, 1903, that C. A. House published his new book, " Cats: Show and Pet."

In June, Fanciers in the U.S.A. really set to work to produce periodicals dealing with the Fancy, and " The Fortnightly Cattarian " and " The Cat Review " both made their first appearance.

37 Shows a Year

In November, one of the outstanding Chinchillas of that period died. He was Lord Southampton and had been sold to Lady Decies by Mrs. Greenwood for the record price of £60. That really *was* a price, for, although I was too young at that time to be interested in cats, I believe, without being able to recollect the fact, that good beer cost no more than twopence a pint in those days!

Happily, one suggestion made during the course of the year was never put into practice ; at least, if attempts were made they were apparently unsuccessful. The suggestion was that Black-and-Tan cats should be bred with Dutch markings. Even our rabbit friends have never gone quite so far as that.

No fewer than thirty-seven cat shows were held during this year, but most of them seem to be much

more local in appeal than those which are held to-day. Sandy held its show on 27th August with Miss Beal, Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Mason as the judges.

Several things stand out when one considers the Fancy of this early time. It was flourishing without a doubt. It had its popular breeds which have since been replaced by others almost unknown in those days. It even had its quarrels which produced protracted lawsuits, but it was a Fancy which was active and striving for progress. That it laid its foundations well we of this generation know from the heritage which has been ours.

At a recent general assembly of the Cat Club de Paris, it was resolved to change the name of its association, which will henceforth be known as the Fédération Féline Française (F.F.F.). President d'honneur will be Professor Achille Urbain, Commander of the Legion of Honour, who holds several important posts in natural history and medicine. President is Professor Etienne Letard, another well-known name in medicine and veterinary science. The F.F.F., founded in 1933, will take over the full activities of the following French societies and clubs: The Cat Club de Paris, Société Centrale Féline de France, Société de Féline de l'Île de France, Société du Chat Persan, Société du Chat Siamois, Société du Chat Europeen et Ratier, Cerele du Persan Bleu, Club du Chat des Chartreux, Club du Chat Crème et Bleu Crème and the Cat Club de Touraine. The Secretary-General of this influential organisation will be Mme. M. Ravel, whose address is 16 Rue des Marronniers, Paris 16e.

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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.

23rd February. Mrs. Myrtle Shipe, of Detroit, Michigan, was elected President of the Cat Fanciers' Association, U.S.A. Miss L. M. Goodwin will serve as Vice-President and Mrs. Claire O'Bryon remains to carry on with the onerous duties of Secretary. Mrs. James R. Mood returns to the post of Recorder after an interval, during which Mrs. James S. Carpenter had held the post. Mrs. John Hunter was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Even at the eleventh hour a delegate proposed that Miss Elsie Hydon should be asked to change her mind about her retirement as President, but her decision was one she had reached after much consideration. I awaited her return home from the eventful meeting which was held in the Hotel McAlpin, New York, and attended by delegates from all parts of the U.S.A. I was interested to hear of many changes which had taken place during her term of office. The Cat Fanciers' Association has the largest number of affiliated clubs (55) according to the January number of "Cat's Magazine." The American Cat Association has 36

affiliated clubs and the Cat Fanciers' Federation 18. No figures are published for the United Cat Federation, but their slogan certainly sounds attractive—Better Shows, Better Standards and Good Sportsmanship.

Mrs. Shipe succeeded to the business of Mrs. Gertrude Taylor, which caters for all the major and minor needs of cats, and she is well known to many British breeders, especially Mrs. Askew, Mrs. Frank Norris and Miss Kathleen Yorke, from whom she purchased some very lovely Black Longhairs with which she constantly won and which bred many winners for her.

26th February. Mrs. Shipe, Mrs. Lester O'Neill, Mrs. Krallman, of Missouri, Mrs. Grubler, of New York, and another Fancier whose name I did not hear came to tea at Miss Hydon's. Mrs. Shipe was delighted with the two Black kittens purchased from Miss Rodda. The male Chadhurst Samson had put on 14 ozs. in less than three weeks and both kittens settled down happily soon after arrival. I was interested to hear that she considers Mr. Soderberg's book, "Cat Breeding and General Management," the best one ever presented on the subject. She gave four copies as special prizes at one Championship show last December. It is a popular work in America and several breeders sang its praises to me.

2nd March. Lunch with Mrs. Elsie Collins and to Radio City Music Hall,

the most gigantic auditorium I have ever been in. A delightful mixed programme of turns, catering for diverse tastes. Ballet, tap dancing, juggling, a movie and a first-class symphony orchestra of over 100 performers. The whole place conceived on a breath-taking scale and this applies to the lovely lounge with its seductive lighting. A very enjoyable and novel day.

3rd March. Another delightful dinner of the Empire Cat Club at Dubonnet's Restaurant. Mrs. John Hunter (President), Mrs. Anthony Avata (first Vice-President), the Secretary, other officials, and several members were present. These dinners are held every fourth Friday. Each member pays for the dinner and can take a guest, so no expense is incurred by the Club. This restaurant is ideally situated and suited for such gatherings as it has a minstrels' gallery and after dinner an informal Club meeting is held. On this particular occasion judges were chosen for next season's Empire Cat Club Show. As any member is free to attend and make suggestions, it appeared to me a very effective way to maintain interest in the Club and its activities.

6th March. To Mrs. MacEwen Ott's to lunch to meet Mrs. John Hunter and Mrs. Collins. Mrs. Ott breeds Siamese and her stock is interesting to English breeders because so much of it is bred from cats reared by Mrs. Duncan Hindley and the late Mrs. Phyl Wade. The American breeder Mme. D'Ollone came to England to judge in 1938 at the Siamese Cat Club Show when I had the pleasure of meeting her and stewarding for her. Acting on Mrs. Wade's advice, several lovely cats and kittens were selected and taken back to America, where they have since had a marked effect on the

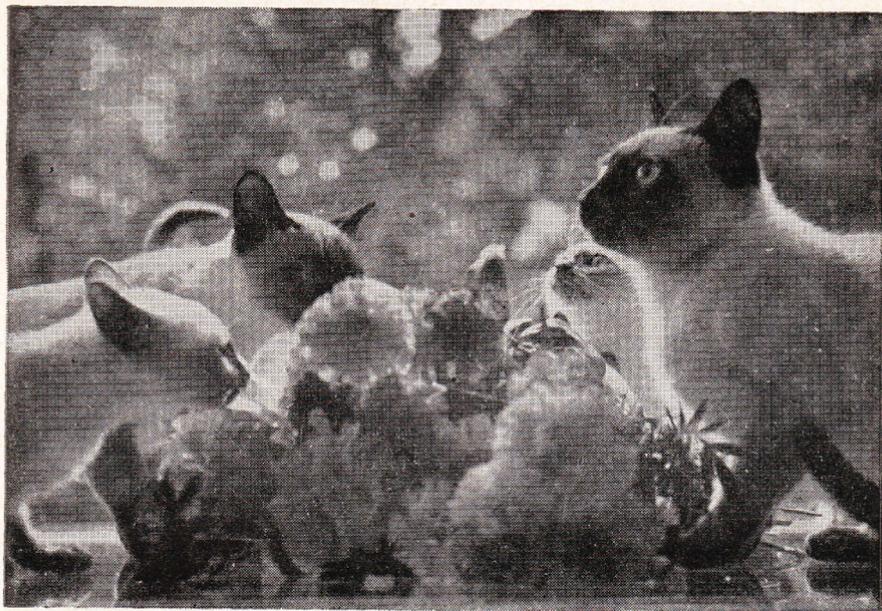
breed in that country. Prestwick Polka sired Ch. Amdos Polkason in 1945, and from the latter Mrs. Ott bred Ch. Merry Mount Polka, who gained her full title at 10 months old. Padrau of Bedale sired Ch. Amdos Atavist and several other winners.

A Blue Point named Celeste was acquired at the same time and this female (sired by Monty Blue) Mrs. Ott considers the loveliest she has ever seen. She first met Mme. D'Ollone at the World's Fair in 1933 and from then onwards they met fairly frequently, and in October, 1948, when she was already in ill-health, Mme. went to live with Mrs. Ott, and when she died a few months later bequeathed to her all her cats.

Three of Mrs. Ott's queens were nursing litters. A fine litter of six were the progeny of Merry Mount Leson. She is a queen who sometimes carries her very young kittens to unexpected places, so she was tethered by a long lead to the radiator, and although I had visions of her becoming entangled she managed it most intelligently.

I was amused when I visited the cattery to see an umbrella-shaped metal hood about one foot from the staging of a wide shelf. In the centre on the underside was a powerful electric lamp and sitting on a blanket sunning themselves were three Siamese queens looking very contented. Several nice kittens were disporting themselves and in a separate pen was a friendly Blue Pointed male, Ch. Merry Mount Tark Acri, sire of many winners.

8th March. Met Mrs. Claire O'Bryon, intending to dine with her, but found she had her car with her and other ideas on the subject. I was soon whisked off to her home at Scarsdale for the night with all small wants such as a nightie and tooth-brush thoughtfully supplied by my



Some of Mrs. Claire O'Bryon's "happy family" of Siamese to which reference is made on the following page.

charming hostess. It was a very interesting evening. We looked through the cuttings and photographs culled from the New York papers of the Empire Cat Club Show last December organised by Mrs. O'Bryon. The attendance at shows abroad far exceed anything we achieve in England and there are many reasons for this. I have judged in France, Switzerland and Denmark during the last eighteen months and in every case shows have lasted two days (in Copenhagen three days). Each night they have been open to the public until 9 or 10 p.m. The venues are always halls or ballrooms in the centre of the city and the advance publicity in the press is something to marvel at.

The Hotel McAlpin, the venue of the Empire Cat Club Show in December and the Atlantic Cat Club in January, is situated in the heart of New York and American Fanciers

appear to assemble with the idea of enjoying themselves as well as exhibiting their cats. The two famous restaurants attached to the hotel are available for delicious meals, and as many exhibitors stay at the McAlpin some of them avail themselves of the opportunity to meet their friends by staying up until the early hours.

But to return to my hostess and her cats. I was very interested to see Southwood Gemini (bred in England by our Mrs. Sayers) disporting herself with Mrs. O'Bryon's very nice B.P. queen Ch. Fa-hing of Su-an. These two are great friends. My last glimpse of Gemini next morning was of her stretched out full length on the wide mantelpiece.

9th March. Breakfast and down to the cattery. It looks over a lovely valley with the Bronx River winding far below it. The cats (all Siamese)

have two light, sunny rooms each divided into two and each compartment with a window, an arrangement which I liked very much. When cats have to be shut up they will amuse themselves for hours if they have a window where they can look out and see all that is going on. I did not take any notes at the time of the individual cats, but I have very pleasant memories of a fine, healthy, happy family.

Later in the morning Mrs. O'Bryon motored me back to New York to meet Mrs. Ralph Wilkinson, Mrs. Elsie Collins and Miss Doris Hobbs for our farewell lunch. This was a very animated affair. Mrs. Wilkinson was, as ever, very indulgent and anxious to make the occasion a memorable one. So finally we walked to the Empire State Building and Miss Hobbs and myself went up to the 86th floor—1,650 feet above the street—to gaze over New York Harbour, Central Park, the George Washington Bridge, and all the other wonders of this amazing city. Later we adjourned to the Waldorf-Astoria and finally came the time of farewells at the Grand Central Station. I shall always remember with gratitude and happy memories all that has been so cheerfully done since my arrival on 11th January to make my visit such a pleasant one.

Mrs. Elsie Collins was visiting the Keystone Show at Atlantic City on 11th and 12th March, which is one of the last of the season's big Championship shows. There is no close season for shows in U.S.A. similar to our long interval from the end of January to midsummer. Shows over there continue throughout late summer and to early spring in quick succession, and some of the exhibits I judged on 12th and 13th January appeared at Columbus, Ohio, on 16th and 17th January. Altogether, 13 cat shows were held in January and Miss Hydon estimated the probable

number of shows in U.S.A. per annum as between 70 and 80. The majority are held under C.F.A. rules, but all are under the rules of the respective Associations previously mentioned. Other shows are held unofficially similar to those we have in England. This does not mean that more cats are registered as Miss Hydon gave me the approximate number registered with the C.F.A. per annum. The figure is rather less than our G.C. registrations. In addition, there are, of course, hundreds of cats and kittens registered by the other three Associations.

U.S.A. breeders have many more opportunities of exhibiting their stock. Immense distances have to be covered occasionally, but one soon learns to regard distance differently in U.S.A. Long, wide roads with four or six traffic lanes, clover leaf flyovers, well-appointed restaurants every few miles, large high-powered and heated cars with unlimited petrol combine to make travelling a pleasure for humans and tolerable for animals, and, of course, many exhibitors travel by air.

11th March. Miss Hydon and myself up with the lark and allowing ourselves ample time, we thought, to say our farewells on the Queen Elizabeth. We arrived to find an endless procession of cars depositing passengers and luggage and we just managed to arrive on the ship before the bell went for visitors to disembark. A hasty and fond good-bye by the elevator, and then to my stateroom to find lovely flowers and a bevy of cards. The latter are a delightful feature of American life and one can find them for every occasion. Miss Hydon received some with appropriate words on her retirement as President of the C.F.A. Many of them are very artistic and the colouring lovely. Before St. Valentine's Day shops blossomed forth with a fine array and

some of my friends in England must have been surprised to receive such loving messages!

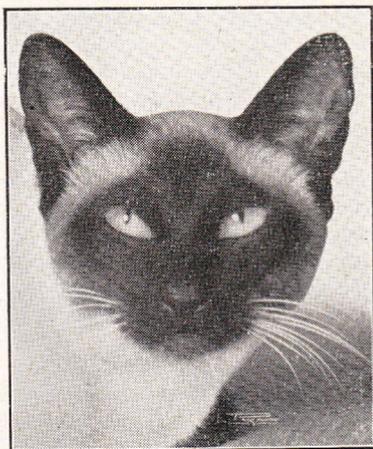
Passengers usually have their flowers on the dining-room tables as they fade so quickly shut in a warm stateroom. For the first day and a half the glory of all the flowers was a joyous sight, but after that the sea was too rough and the vases were tied to the stewards' tables on the floor. A rough voyage is much more exciting than a smooth sea if one does not suffer from mal-de-mer, and it is interesting to see what can happen when one of the Queens battles through Atlantic gales. Lack of sleep is one inconvenience and I found myself sleepily hoping I would not fall out of the berth as she started her long series of deliberate rolls.

Plenty of time to meditate on the wonderful friendliness of the American people and to appreciate that I had the good fortune to meet them in their homes through the generous action of the Cat Fanciers' Federation in inviting me to judge at the Atlantic Cat Club Show, and with utmost sincerity I say "Thanks for the memories."

I saw many very lovely cats other than those I handled at the Show, and deplore our quarantine law which makes importation so risky and expensive. The Blue and Orange-eyed Whites are beautiful and the American and those of Mlle. Perrin, of Switzerland, must be the loveliest in the world. The Editor is reproducing Mrs. Denhard's Solomon's Seal on the cover this month. One had to see him, however, to appreciate his short body, his lovely short full brush and the wealth and length of his coat.

18th March. Two days late at Southampton owing to the heavy gales. Travelling homewards in the train, my first impression was the incredible emerald green of the fields, the lovely almond blossom, the bud-

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ding trees, primroses nestling on the railway embankment, and daffodils nodding in the breeze. I intended slipping quietly home and only told friends the week I was arriving. But they guessed I was travelling by the Queen Elizabeth and my first sight at Waterloo was Mrs. Macdonald flying along the platform, all smiles and warm welcome. Later, Mr. Macdonald whisked us off to Ewell and I heard about the Olympia Cat Show, the most marvellous opportunity cat breeders have ever had to present their stock to the public at a hall which is famous throughout the world.

19th March. Home to find hundreds of latters, but with only one thought at present—to s-l-e-e-p!

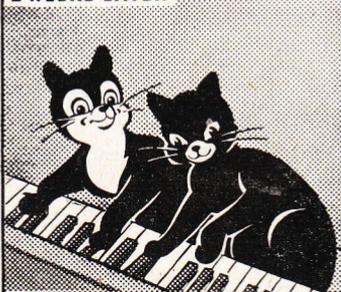
20th March. Miss Cottell brought Starlet home looking very fit and well but inclined to embonpoint. She loves her food and is the only Blue I have owned who has to be rationed. Very grateful to Miss Cottell for all her kindness.

22nd March. This was a day to remember. Off to Waterloo to meet Mr. Spiers with Ch. Gloria returning home after all the vicissitudes of her six weeks lost in London and her miraculous recovery. Mr. Spiers to business and myself to search for a carriage to myself so I could open Gloria's basket to see her quickly. I looked with emotion at her sweet face and her fat paws as she was lying in my arms. What a subject of controversy she has been whilst I have been



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away, and how she has enabled me to find my friends! Nothing which has ever happened to a cat of mine has elicited so much sympathy, and letters have come from all over the world.

To Mrs. Spiers, who took such splendid care and brought her back to the lovely condition I left her in, I have the deepest gratitude, also to Mrs. Marlow, who continued the search with such unflagging zeal after I had left for America. For such kindness and love for a fellow Fancier's cat all words are inadequate.

In dozens of the letters cat lovers asked: What did Gloria do when she returned home? Well, she jumped out of the basket, stretched herself, gave a little hiss at Starlet to remind her she was junior, and resumed all her old habits as though she had been for a stroll round the garden. By nightfall she was hobnobbing with Starlet as though they had never been parted.

Some of the correspondence was amusing. Mrs. Davidson wrote: "I think your 'Mimi' is a credit to all pedigree cats. To think she had the intelligence to live on her wits for nearly six weeks; she deserves a medal!"

24th March. Siamese Cat Club Committee Meeting in the morning. A hurried but enjoyable lunch with Mr. France and then back to the

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Goring Hotel for the Annual General Meeting at 2.30, which had a good attendance. The Championship Show will be on 12th October at the Lime Grove Baths, Shepherds Bush. The meeting ended with tea and some delightful cat chats—at least, mine were—and I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

28th March. A short Committee Meeting of the Croydon Cat Club was followed by the A.G.M. The balance sheet showed a good profit on the Show so capably organised by Mr. and Mrs. Towe last November. As this Diary goes to press the date and venue of the next one are undecided.

31st March. A Croydon Cat Club Committee Meeting at the home of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Axon, where she kindly invited us to assemble. Afterwards we had a jolly tea party and much admired her grandson, Charles Axon, junior, now 16 months of age and a fine boy for his age.

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MORE NEWS ITEMS

A Bath man named Ernest Toogood has failed to live up to his name. He went away for a fortnight's holiday and left his 10-year-old ginger cat locked in the house. The R.S.P.C.A. got to work and Toogood was eventually fined £10, plus costs, for causing the cat unnecessary suffering. It was emaciated when rescued and had to be put to sleep. A timely warning to other thoughtless people who think only of themselves when they go away for holidays.

A distinguished P.D.S.A. patient in Cardiff is Adolf, a black-and-white half-Persian cat, who is brought in regularly by his owner, Mr. Halkon, for an overhaul. Adolf is rightly esteemed—he has the distinction of having saved his master's property from burglars who entered the house when the occupants were out for the day. Adolf was shut out in the garden. Hearing movements in the house and assuming his owner had returned, he demanded admittance at the back door. His summons not being answered, Adolf became angry. Loud and long did he cry until the neighbours came out to see what was wrong. This apparently disturbed the intruders, who were busily engaged collecting clothes and valuables ready to be packed in suitcases. They fled through the front door! When Mr. Halkon returned he found his property laid out on the beds and the suitcases ready to receive it, but

nothing was missing. An indignant cat met him on the doorstep—still shut out. No wonder Adolf's patience was exhausted!

Siamese devotees in America are cock-a-hoop over the fact that history has been made by a lovely Blue Point queen owned by Mrs. R. H. Hecht, of Normandy, Missouri. Her Vee Roi's Lantara Gene is the first Siamese cat to win the title of Grand Champion in the history of the American Fancy. And this isn't all. At the recent Pittsburgh Show, Lantara Gene was adjudged Best All-American Cat against powerful competition—some say the strongest competition ever assembled at one show.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (membership 438,000) has arranged in conjunction with the National Canine Defence League a one-day school for speakers on the care of cats and dogs in London. The agenda covers such items as feeding cats under present-day conditions, common ailments, handling injured animals, the law in relation to cats, etc. The school has been well attended by W.I. members from all over the country. Its aim is, of course, to provide those interested with some information which will enable them to give simple talks to the Women's Institutes.

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Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest

AMERICAN SIAMESE

I have enjoyed your Magazine very much, and since I breed Siamese am particularly interested in all the articles on the breed. I was specially interested in the report of Mr. Stirling-Webb on the Siamese as he found them here in America.

The difference in our Northern and Southern Siamese as to colour which I have found very true. However, some of our Northern Siamese when moved to my section (South) the points seem to fade and the body still darkens. I am always searching for the thing that will produce those light bodies and deep points which we all want. So if anyone can offer anything along this line in an article in *OUR CATS* I am sure all Siamese breeders would be more than interested.

Mrs. R. M. Cuthbertson,
Lufkin, Texas, U.S.A.

UNFIT HOMES

I notice Mr. L. Owen Jones's reply to my letter on this subject in your March issue, and while in the main I agree that £ s. d. does protect a pedigree cat to an extent, I have seen the state pedigree cats are allowed to get into even in homes where a fair price has been paid. Does Mr. Jones expect to pay the same price for any car as he does for a Rolls Royce? It is not in the palatial home always that the cat is cared for best, but in the homes of the over-taxed "middle class" (so called) and cottage homes.

Mr. Gordon B. Allt,
Binstead, nr. Ryde, I.O.W.

TRIBUTES TO CYRIL YEATES

On behalf of the Croydon Cat Club, I would like to pay a tribute to the late Cyril Yeates. Words fail to express the sorrow felt at his passing. There will never be another like him, always so kind, ready to impart his wonderful knowledge of cats to the novice exhibitor or anyone else who sought his advice, helping them in every way possible. Indeed, his living has not been in vain. My memory of him goes back thirty years when my mother exhibited her first cat. Both he and Mrs. Yeates were so kind and helpful. It left an everlasting impression on me and with the passing years my respect and admiration for his wisdom increased. Our deepest sympathy goes to his devoted daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Turner.

Mrs. A. E. Vize,
Committee of the Croydon Cat Club.

C'est avec infiniment de peine que le Cat Club de Paris a appris la mort de Mr. Cyril Yeates. Mr. Yeates avait été Mrs. Gretta Yeates le soutien de élevage féline en France, et principalement les consellers du Cat Club de Paris. C'est donc un de nos plus grans amis de la cause féline Française que nous pleurons et nous prions le Cat Fancy d'accepter nos condoléances attristés pour la perte qu'il vient de faire, en le personne de Cyril Yeates qui depuis si longtemps se dévouai a la cause féline de son pays et du nôtre.

Le Comité du Cat Club de Paris.

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Tailpieces

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A SANDWICH (Kent) family have good reason to bless the day they took in their lucky black cat. Mrs. Eva Marsh opened her bedroom door to find the house filled with smoke after she had been roused by the cat scratching outside. There were some exciting escapes before the whole family got safely out of the house, which was severely damaged. Puss saved nine lives—and his own—on this occasion.

Another exciting rescue story also comes from Kent. At Joydens Wood, Bexley, Mrs. Mary Harwood, who had lost her pet Persian Bubbles, was attracted by the antics of Sandra, an Alsatian, who was barking by a fence round a dene hole. When the dog became quiet she could hear Bubbles mewing at the bottom of the hole. A R.S.P.C.A. call brought local firemen to the scene, and Station Officer Bourne effected a rescue by being lowered 80 ft. on a rope. When he got to the bottom of the hole he had to chase Bubbles into an underground chamber before he finally caught her.

Crops in Holland are threatened by a plague of millions of field mice, says a Reuter's report.

Longevity among cats is discussed in the current issue of "The Countryman." A Reading correspondent tells of Timmy, a handsome black male, who was born in March, 1921, and died in his sleep in September, 1947. He thus beat by

2½ years the record of 24 which was once given over the radio as the greatest age to which any cat was known to have lived. An Oxfordshire reader supplies a picture of her pet Tiny Webb, still full of the joy of spring at the age of 21. Yet another correspondent from Perthshire tells of a neighbour's cat who lived to be 28, despite the fact that he had been trapped in youth and lost a paw.

Mrs. Violet Parker, Secretary and Treasurer of the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Cat Club, writes to tell me that their Annual General Meeting was fairly well attended. Mrs. Price, their Chairman, addressed the gathering and thanked members for their loyal support throughout the past show season. The Club has grown beyond the borders of Herts and Middlesex and now has about 175 members. New members from Essex and Buckinghamshire have been specially welcomed. Miss Dukes has been obliged to give up the work of Treasurer owing to pressure of other business but will continue to serve the Club. A suggestion to hold the next Show on a Saturday was put to the vote and adopted at the meeting. It is hoped that this move will result in a better gate. Mrs. Price and Mrs. Parker were elected as delegates to the Governing Council. Mrs. Parker ends her notes with a reference to the great loss sustained by the Club in the death of Cyril Yeates, who was one of their vice-presidents.



We are indebted to Mme. M. J. Ravel for permission to reproduce her exquisite sketch from some promotion matter of the Cat Club de Paris.

The White Cross of St. Giles is to be awarded by the P.D.S.A. to David Wilson, of Newcastle, a 13-year-old Boy Scout, who risked his life to save a cat trapped on a narrow ledge on a railway viaduct 50 ft. over the road approach to Tyne Bridge, Newcastle. David edged his way up between an advertisement hoarding and the wall to the top of the viaduct on the south side. The viaduct carries a number of railway lines, some electrified, and just as he reached the top an express thundered by. He lay flat on the parapet to prevent being sucked over. When the train had passed, he picked his way over the lines to the north side, climbed over the parapet and edged along the ledge to the cat. Below was a sheer drop to the roadway. The cat was terrified. It clawed David at his first attempt to

catch it, and he had to spend some time soothing it as he clung to the ledge. Having gained its confidence, he was able to pick it up and tuck it in his shirt, fastening his coat over it. He climbed over the parapet, re-crossed the lines and climbed down the same way he came, watched by an anxious crowd.

A strange story was told to Mr. Powell, Chairman of North London Juvenile magistrates. A policeman had stopped a boy carrying two large bags down a street in a furtive way late at night. He opened up the bags and found four frightened cats inside. The boy explained that the cats had been troubling his pigeons. So he was taking them some distance away to Parliament Hill Fields where he intended to release them. Mr.

Powell explained that his action was illegal because it was likely to cause the cats suffering. It was the boy's duty to take the cats to their respective owners and complain if he found them in his pigeon loft again.

People living in Hove are getting used to seeing Wilfred, a grey-and-white rabbit, hopping about the neighbourhood of Cross Street. He belongs to Mr. Dennis Jarvis, a green-grocer, who says that Wilfred prefers the busy street and the company of Paddy, a tabby cat. They are great friends and may often be seen setting out together to the fishmonger's, where Paddy gets a titbit every morning.

H.M.S. Victory, the famous ship of Nelson's day at Portsmouth, has its own resident rat-catcher. She is a Tortie named Fishcake, who recently presented offspring Ginger as an additional member of the crew.

The Canine Defence League are doing some splendid work at their Hampton home in the rehabilitation

of retired racing greyhounds. The scheme aims to convert these highly-strung racing dogs into pets instead of having them destroyed when their racing days are over. An official has described how the poor dog's complete world—made up of men, hares and other greyhounds—has to be changed. They are trained to get used to cats and other dogs and when they are docile enough they are sent out to various homes to have their first taste of domesticity.

Pedigree forms for non-club members can be supplied at the rate of 1s. 6d. (postage 1d.) for 12. Larger supplies at pro rata rates. Send order and remittance to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, S.W.9.

Mrs. Winifred Bell, of Littlehampton, has written to tell the "Sunday express" that her half-Persian cat, aged three, previously jet black, has grown a beautiful grey ruffle around his neck.

MICKEY.

DANEHURST CATTERY

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To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

The Kittens

Although I only promised to give away one kitten, I have found homes for two. They have not left me yet, but are to be fetched next week. I am very glad that neither of them have to go on long railway journeys because small kittens are easily frightened by strange noises. I expect that you have noticed that when you make those terrible Red Indian noises your kitten runs away to hide under a chair.

Ant Palaces

A few weeks ago I bought myself some new pets. They are British Meadow ants in a handsome glass palace which fits into a wooden case so that the little creatures can spend most of their time in the dark, which is how they like to live.

Already I have spent many hours watching them at work. In my palace there is a queen who has hundreds of subjects called workers. Amber Meadow ants have workers of two sizes who are known as majors and minors because of the difference in their size.

Ants are very tidy creatures, and when any of them die others collect them and take them to that part of their home which they have decided to use as a cemetery. Several ants carry the body while others form up behind to make a procession. I expect this is because they realise that many of them will be needed to dig away the earth.

The main job of the workers is to look after the young and this really is a full-time job. The eggs are usually laid by the queen in May, and immediately they see a fresh egg the workers carry it off to a special room. A few weeks later the egg hatches, but it does not turn into an ant but becomes a little grub-like creature called a larva. In July the larva weaves itself a cocoon and then it looks very much like an egg. It is these cocoons that we often call "ant eggs" and feed to our goldfish.

Big ant families in their palace will live for a number of years and they require very little attention. They need never be fed more than once a fortnight, and then all you have to do is to put in half a teaspoonful of water and one or two drops of honey. If any of you would like to know where you can buy an ant palace, write to me and I will tell you.

Tortie-and-White Kittens

Someone who read what I had written in January about the difficulty of finding Tortie-and-White kittens told me that the best way to find out if any such kittens were available would be to write to the Secretary of the cat club which looks after Torties and Tortie-and-Whites. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Newton and her address is Crab Tree, Hamm Court, Weybridge, Surrey. I know that Mrs. Newton will do her best to help anyone who is interested.

Uncle Peter

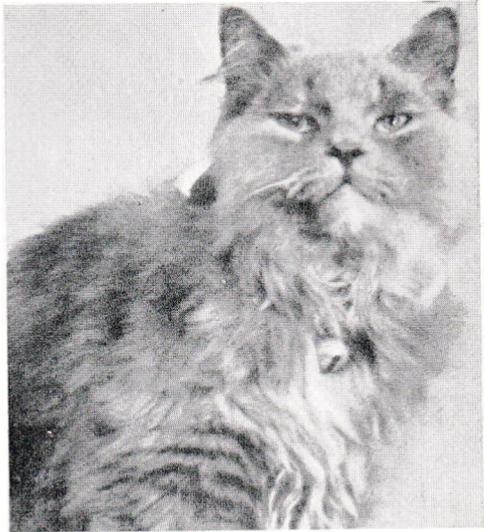
Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to **OUR CATS Magazine**, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

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

Mark Twain



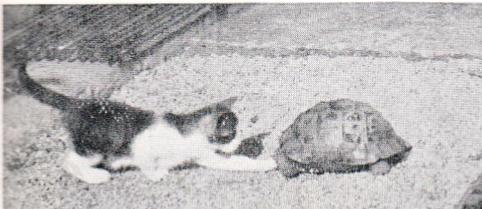
This handsome Siamese is known as **FATHER'S CAT** in the household of Fru Rudy Eisenhuth, who is a prominent figure in the Danish Cat Fancy.



JO-JO, striking Blue Longhair born in October, 1948, is the pet of Miss Lydia G. Booth, of Oxted, Surrey. She is something of a glamour puss, having had her picture reproduced on calendars.



The sun accentuates the beautiful markings of **MICKEY**, pet of Miss A. M. Patrick, of Tooting, S.W.17, as he chases the moving shadows in the garden.



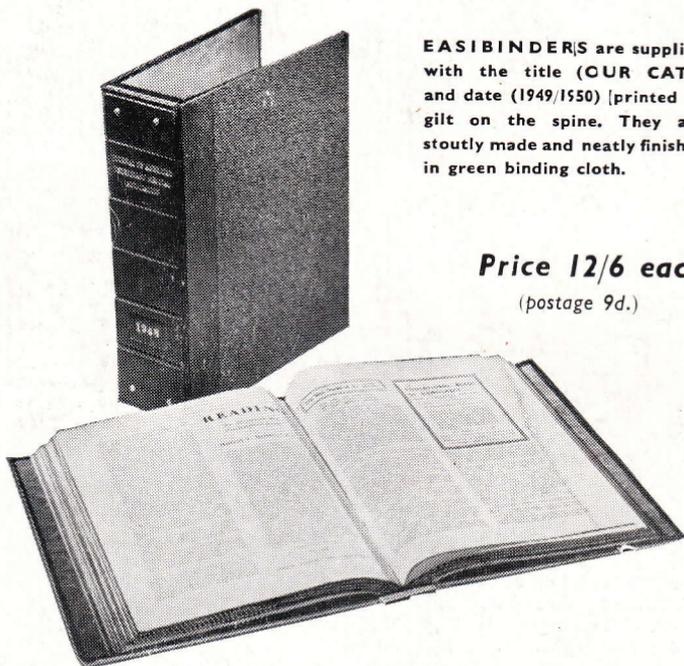
The tortoise emerges from his hibernation to run into a spot of trouble! Snapshot submitted by Mrs. E. Hadfield, of Hale, Cheshire.



This unusual snap of **VIOLAINE**, Russian Blue mother and her three weeks old kittens in their handsome cradle, comes to us from A. Scribe de Laumont, of Aubervilliers, Seine, France, who specialises in this variety with considerable success.

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