

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



MAY 1950

1/6

STARTING WITH SIAMESE? (see page 9)

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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.

VOL. 2 No. 5

MAY 1950

Managing Editor :

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

THE FANCY'S NEW LEADER

IT is not the policy of this Magazine to concern itself at all with the politics of the Fancy which it aims to serve. Its job is to observe and record dispassionately.

I could quite easily fill the greater part of this issue with accounts of the events of last month when the buzzings and comings and goings had all the characteristics of a hive on a sunny afternoon in summer. The big event was, of course, the annual general meeting of the Governing Council.

Members and delegates attended in force and surprises were in store for them. Miss Kit Wilson announced her intention of vacating the chair owing to pressure of her professional engagements. She had held office

for only a year following the resignation of the late Cyril Yeates in 1949. A suggestion that Miss Wilson should reconsider her decision only resulted in a further declaration that she would adhere to her original intention to resign.

The Council's new Chairman is Miss Kathleen Yorke, who requires no introduction to readers of OUR CATS. She is a frequent contributor and in our issue of June last we devoted space to an account of



Miss Kathleen Yorke with a friend.

her pre-war activities at the famous Culloden Cattery which she ran at Park Street, near St. Albans, in partnership with Capt. Guy St. Barbe.

I am sure that the Fancy can look forward to an era of peace, prosperity and progress under the leadership of Miss Yorke. She has all the necessary qualifications—a deep and abiding love of cats, vast experience in their breeding and management and with it all a kindly understanding and willingness to help and encourage. The duties she has undertaken demand a great amount of work and responsibility and I know that I shall be voicing the prayers of cat lovers everywhere when I express the hope that Miss Yorke will soon be enjoying all the advantages that only full health can bring.


A number of readers have written recently to express their appreciation of our "Correspondence Corner" feature, which began with our No. 1 issue. They would like more letters on more subjects each month. *So would I!*

I would like to see the feature developed along much wider lines with letters coming in steadily from all over the world on the thousand-and-one aspects of cat breeding and management. A few little personal experiences would not be amiss provided they have point and general interest.

Letter writing, it is said, is a dying art. So let us show that it is very much alive among cat lovers. There is only one rule to observe—please make your letters snappy and concise.

EDITOR

Our front cover picture this month—submitted by Mrs. V. E. Major—is of her Abyssinian Kitten ADRAH CYLDOR, a prize-winner at the National Cat Club Show last December.

 **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 (Macauley 1462).

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WILL YOU HELP?

Just to remind you that our drive for increased readership is still on. Much progress has been made but many more new subscribers are necessary if this Magazine is to be developed along the lines we have planned. You probably know of cat lovers here and overseas who would be interested to see **OUR CATS**. Send us their names and addresses—we will be pleased to send out the specimen copies.

WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MISS M. C. GOLD

RUNNING this Magazine for the widely assorted interests of the Cat Fancy can be good fun at times. When earlier in the year we invited ideas and suggestions from readers a great number of interesting and useful replies were received and the most helpful of these were put aside for future reference. Some of the responses were definitely amusing.

There were just a few we couldn't do much about because we were painfully aware of our own limitations and the fact that the most we could ever hope to achieve would be to please "all of the people some of the time."

This is the point. A few Longhair fans thought we devoted far too much space to Siamese and other Shorthairs. And here and there a Siamese devotee popped up to chide us for printing "so much stuff about Longhairs." So there you are—you pay your money and can't always be certain that you are going to get your choice!

As far as this month's issue is concerned, the scales are certainly tipped in favour of the exotic blue-eyed boys. But in the matter of this particular feature we are sure it will be generally welcomed because it deals not only with the career of an experienced breeder and judge of



Miss M. C. Gold.

Siamese, but also with one of the best known and best liked members of the Fancy.

Miss M. C. Gold, widely travelled and experienced in the ways of felines, is a Fancier who has had high ideals ever since the spark of enthusiasm was lit many years ago. She has always taken a prominent part in Siamese affairs and her cats with the Oriental prefix have contributed substantially towards the raising of the standard of the breed not only in England but in America and other countries.

Miss Gold now lives quietly at Hastings, but she remains as interested as ever in the affairs of the Fancy and, as she explains, one can never lose that innate love of cats once it is installed in

one's make-up. Some few months ago she met with a period of ill-health that necessitated a prolonged stay in hospital. Now that she is out and about again Fanciers everywhere will doubtless wish to join with us in wishing her a speedy return to full health so that she is able to take her rightful place in the events of the busy season that lies ahead.

My First Kitten

As far as I can remember, relates Miss Gold, my family has always been an animal loving one. At one time or another cats, dogs, horses especially, and many other kinds of animals have been cherished members of the household. I was about four years old when my father presented me with a kitten, a very pretty shorthaired Tabby. I remember how thrilled I was to think he was my very own and how carefully I was taught to handle him gently. The food was prepared ready for me to feed the kitten—a most exciting operation!

The big doll I had become a neglected plaything and I discovered that its clothes could be made to fit the kitten. So I used to dress him up, even when he was quite big, put him in the doll's pram and push him round the garden or in the nursery. The kitten loved this performance and when he was not to be found anywhere about he usually had retired to the pram for a sleep.

This first and unforgettable pet lived for about 12 years and then one night he didn't come in. Cook found him under some bushes some distance from the house. He was in a very bad

way and by the time the vet. arrived he had passed away, apparently from the effects of poisoning. It was a long time before I could be persuaded to have another pet.

I had never seen or even heard of Siamese cats until I went to Siam over twenty years ago. My friends in Bangkok kept a pair and at the time of my arrival the queen was nursing a litter of 4 to 5 weeks old kittens. I shall never forget the thrill I got at seeing this family of cats. The queen was lovely, with glorious blue eyes, big ears well set and the sweetest disposition. The male also was a fine cat—a real male with a fine masculine voice.

I have always regretted that I didn't bring back two of these kittens with me. But my journey via Hong Kong, Colombo and Singapore just made this impossible.

Early Trouble

You can imagine that I was more than a little interested on my return to England to discover that there were Siamese cats in this country and also a specialist Club catering for the breed. Whilst I had been away a great friend of mine had been given a Siamese queen and she promised me one out of the litter. That's how I started.

The kitten was a female who turned out very nice. I showed her with a litter and won third prize at the Siamese Club Show under Mrs. Phyl Wade. Then I ran into trouble. The queen and two kittens died from enteritis. Luckily for me I had made the acquaintance of Mrs. Harold Basnett. I rang her up and told her of the triple tragedy. I shall never forget her kindness and

sympathy and all her wonderful advice, which I followed to the letter.

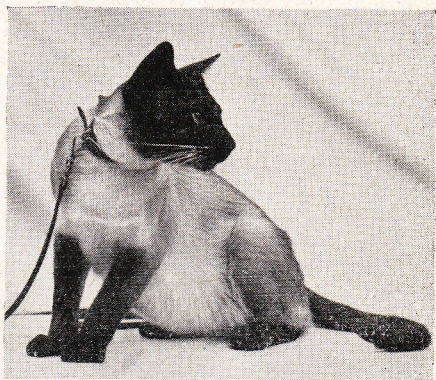
After some months—when she felt it was safe—she gave me a queen with a kitten. So once more I went ahead on my breeding career and any success I have achieved I owe entirely to the help and encouragement of Mrs. Basnett, who became one of my very good friends. She was wonderful with Siamese in every way and her death was a very great loss to the Fancy.

Round about that time I felt that Siamese at the various shows failed in type, heads, and certainly in tails. I had learned a good deal from my friends in Siam; good cats were not very numerous, even in Bangkok. So I had my ideal and I went all out first for type, then the real wedge-shaped head with big ears and plenty of width between at the base and finally the correct long, thin, whip tail. So many cats I saw had kinked tails or short thick ones, and even today there are bad tails about in cats that otherwise have good type.

It was on Mrs. Basnett's advice that I purchased my first stud. He was Southampton Darboy, bred by Mrs. Watson, of Honiton, a fine cat with lovely texture of coat, fine eye colour and a good whip tail. Mrs. Budgeon had Zaroui, a beautiful young queen, mated to Darboy and these matings resulted in two Champions in one of the litters—Ch. Angus Silky and Ch. Iseult. I very much wanted one of these male kittens as a future stud. So I selected Silky when he was very small, and my hopes of his future were more than fulfilled, not only as an outstanding winner but also

as the sire of Mrs. Bowles's unbeatable Wivenhoe Serena, who was as near perfect as any Siamese that has ever been bred.

Another winner was Oriental Silky Boy, winner of two challenge certificates just before the war broke out. He promised to follow in his father's footsteps, but his career, alas! like so many others, was cut short in 1939. And when Mrs. Budgeon moved from Churt I became the proud owner of Zaroui, who was an exceptional brood queen. Her litters usually numbered six, but twice she had eight kittens and she lived to be 14 years old.



Champion Angus Silky

My best male was undoubtedly Ch. Angus Silky, who lived for nearly 13 years. Next comes his son, Oriental Silky Boy, still fit and active and siring winning kittens at 12½ years. A full brother of his, Oriental Nanki Poo, whom I sent out to Mrs. Virginia Cobb, the well-known American Fancier, is also doing well as a sire and prizewinner. He is now 11½ years old.

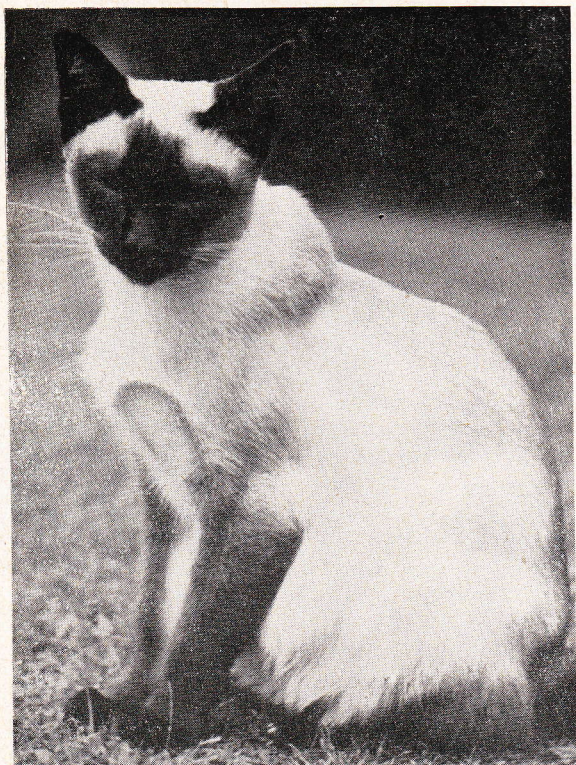
Then, of course, I mustn't forget Penybryn John, a fine male with two challenge certificates to his credit, and my dear

old imported male Oriental Nai Tobhi (Toby), who had such a wonderful texture of coat which, like Darboy, he passed on to his progeny. There were many others and I loved them all. Each had their different ways and characteristics.

Two were my faithful companions all through the war.

had a beautiful coat and bred several litters by Mrs. Dixon's Hoveton Emperor. Oriental Ting San, still alive and owned by Mrs. Sayers, is one of the best known.

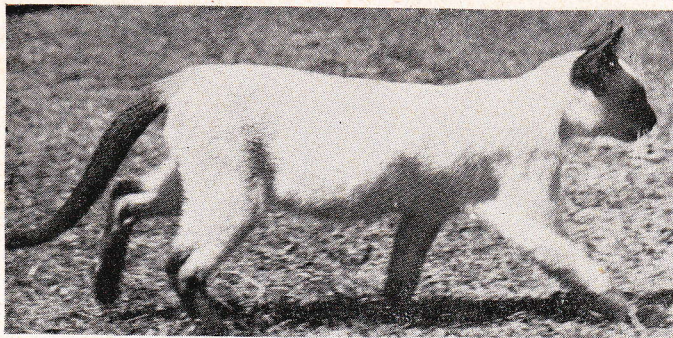
My only queen now is Oriental Jonta, litter sister to Oriental Silky John, by Shrewsbury Romeo ex Oriental Natasha. She



Oriental Natasha (by Silky Boy) at six years. Note the lovely pale coat and shape of head.

They never turned a hair through all the dreadful bangs and vibrations. Their names were Khunning Sata Deng, 13 years old when she died in 1944, and Oriental Natasha, sire Silky Boy ex Oriental Puang Pet, who was by my imported Toby. Natasha

is with Mrs. Gill at Crowhurst at the moment to see how she settles, as if later on I have to live in London it would not be fair for me to keep her after she has been used to unrestricted freedom. Jonta has a lovely home on a farm, right off the



Oriental Silky John (4½ months) with determined stride.

beaten track, and seems to have adopted the whole household, including two dogs.

Just a few words in conclusion to novices. A stud owner is not obliged to give a second mating free to a queen who misses the first time, *but* it is usual to take the queen free a second time *but not a third unless a fee is paid again*. I was recently asked by a stud owner what she should do as a queen sent to her stud missed twice and the owner of the queen expected a third mating free.

I advise all novice owners of queens to visit the stud decided on beforehand and take note of

the conditions to see that there is a good stud house and a safe run. I have heard of more than one queen sent for mating getting out and lost. This is a terrible thing to happen and of course it can only occur where the queens are not put into an escape-proof house and run or left in a room indoors with a window that they can open.

Siamese are very clever, especially when they are calling. They will get through the smallest hole or open any window catch or climb a chimney—anything to get out.

ALL-IN HOUSEHOLD PETS INSURANCE COVERING DOGS AND CATS

This insurance, first introduced by us in 1933, has recently been considerably increased in scope and simplified after sixteen years' experience, and now include CATS, which can be insured alone.

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A page for the proletarian puss No. 2



So soft and pretty, such a helpless toy
For children to delight in . . .

From "Did You Hear, Little Cat?" by Hazel M. Watson.

Our decision to devote a page in each issue to some outstanding photograph of a non-pedigree cat or kitten seems to meet with universal approval. We repeat—aristocrats are rigidly excluded from this feature! This appealing study of Lucky, a little black Shorthair kitten, was taken by Mrs. V. E. Major, of Great Bookham, Surrey.

Starting with Siamese?

By ELSIE HART, Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club

"I WOULD like a Siamese kitten. I'm told they have blue eyes that squint and a knot in their tails. I wonder where I could get one?" Myself, some twenty years ago!

"Oh, I should think — would have one," replied a friend, naming a large departmental store.

Well, after much searching my first Siamese kitten reached me via a reliable breeder, and so I fell a victim to the velvet-masked, plush-coated children of Siam. His name was Hooka-Manchu. He screamed blue murder on arrival, ate three plates of raw meat, promptly had diarrhoea, later on cat 'flu, recovered, never ailed another thing and lived fifteen years. He came of *good strong stock*. So, if you are thinking of acquiring a Siamese kitten that is the first thing to look for.



Avoid pet shops like the plague. No reputable breeder ever sells to these places, well known or otherwise. Advertisements in reliable cat periodicals may be investigated, a letter to the secretary of one of the Siamese cat clubs will usually produce a list of breeders with stock for disposal, or a visit during the show season to one of the big London shows where Siamese breeders and their cats abound, are all more or less satisfactory ways of purchasing one.

If possible, go to see the kitten before deciding upon it. There are plenty of breeders from whom you will get a square deal. There are also some of the other kind, so naturally it is better to have a look at the conditions under which the cats are kept.

Healthy litters will be playing about happily with clear, bright eyes, spotless ears and nice clean tail ends. Avoid watery eyes and red bottoms, which spell debility and diarrhoea. A kitten should be at least eight weeks old before leaving its mother, by which time it should be properly weaned and house-trained.



Ask to see the pedigree. The names of the cats may convey nothing to you but you will be able to see if there is much in-breeding. Quantities of champions in the great-great-great-grandparents do not mean a thing as most of these old cats will be found in nearly all pedigrees.

Fight shy of breeders who are loathe to produce a pedigree, who offer you a cheap kitten without one, or demand an extra charge for it; there is generally something shady here.

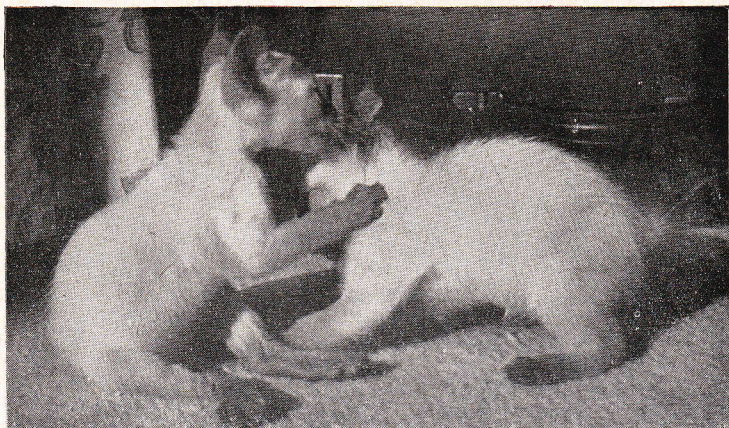
Having made up your mind, ask the breeder how the kitten is being fed and the material used for the sanitary tray. There is no need to keep entirely to one method of feeding, but change to your own idea gradually and avoid tummy upsets.

Siamese eat much like other cats. The golden rule is—Do not over feed, give water to drink, and avoid acidity by feeding solids separately and not with milky foods. Siamese are as a rule exceptionally clean cats, but having been trained to expect peat moss in the lavatory may be annoyed to find ashes have been substituted and so choose to perform their toilet elsewhere. Commence by sprinkling whatever has been previously used on the tray and all should be well.

Remember the small Siamese is leaving his mother, brothers and

very ordinary adult, whilst the plain, indifferent scrap may turn into a swan.

In endeavouring to choose a possible winner avoid the pretty little thing. Good Siamese are not chocolate box beauties. Long and lanky with the appearance of scragginess, pointed noses, large ears, eyes shaped like a Chinaman, the colour of anchusia, tail erect, long and waving like a whip. This is a near description of a potential show specimen. The colour of the body does not matter; it is never static and you will have to take a chance on it re-



HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE ?

This amusing photograph typifying the quaintness of Siamese babies at play comes from Mrs. K. R. Williams, the well-known Sutton (Surrey) Fancier.

sisters and will most certainly miss them at first, so kindness and much fussing will be necessary for a day or two, and don't forget a warm place to sleep.

You do not want just a pet, a show specimen with a view to breeding is required? This is much more difficult because Siamese are always changing. Even the most experienced breeder will not be able to guarantee how it will develop. The marvellous kitten may prove to be a

maining pale cream through the years.

A strong, healthy kitten will need little attention to get it into show condition. Daily grooming and a final polishing with a piece of velvet or chamois leather is all that is necessary. Clean the ears with a little medicinal paraffin and periodically make a search for lodgers.

In all probability your kitten will be already registered with the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy,

the body under whose rules most of the cat shows are run. If you wish to exhibit, your kitten must be transferred to your name and to do this you should write to Mr. K. J. Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey, who will tell you what to do.

Shows are advertised in the various cat papers on the market and a post card to the show manager will bring a schedule giving all the information necessary. Read your schedule and make your entries accordingly.

With your exhibit now in show condition, you set off, allowing plenty of time for passing the veterinary surgeon. Find your pen and give it a good clean out with methylated spirit and some mild disinfectant such as Dettol or Sanitas. A final polish for the kitten and in it goes.

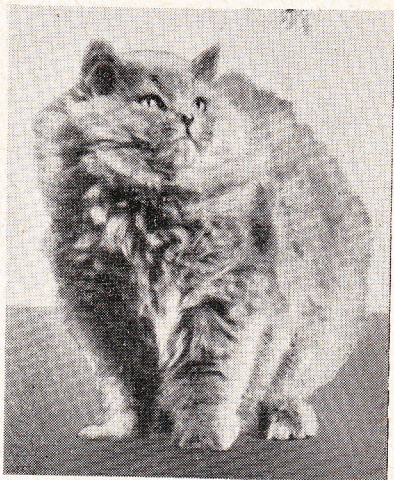
Who knows? It may be the founder of a grand new strain and you may breed another Ch. Inwood Shadow. Mention of this extremely beautiful female prompts me to suggest that visits to the shows are profitable and help the novice to see the difference between good and bad specimens.

Prior to the war the show standard of Siamese was very high. As was only to be expected, it went down considerably during the war years, but we are now once again on the up grade and many fine cats and kittens are making their appearance. It is not easy to breed good Siamese, but given time, hard work and patience one may some day realise the pleasure of having bred a Best in Show.

As I write these last words four generations of Sealsleeves sit around me. May you derive as much pleasure from these fascinating creatures as I have done.

Cats that are different. Go and buy one.

A TYPICAL DANEHURST KITTEN



Mr. Gordon B. Allt, owner of the famous Danehurst Cattery, writes—

"I am giving Kit-zyme to all my cats and kittens and I find it supplies that little 'something' which was needed in their diet. The adults average 3 tablets a day and the kittens of two months commence with 1 tablet daily. I notice that the motions from all are perfectly normal—always a sign of good health.

I have already passed on the good tidings about Kit-zyme to many of my cat friends."

KIT-ZYME will benefit your cat too

**It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—
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Kit-zyme

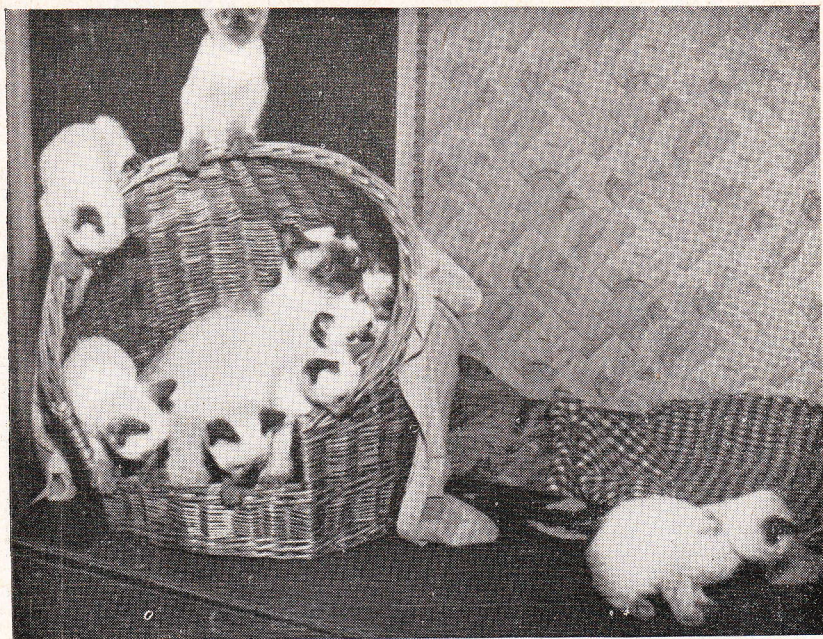
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Loughborough Monitor

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- ★ Then you place it in a stamped envelope addressed to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9.
- ★ There is nothing more to do but to await the arrival of the postman with *your* copy of the Magazine. He will be calling round about the 20th of each month for the next twelve months. Surely never before was so much real and lasting pleasure (and profit!) purchased for so small an outlay in trouble and cash.

OUR CATS MAGAZINE may now be obtained through your usual Newsagent. Please write to the above address in case of difficulty.

White Tag and Whiskers

By MAURICE WIGGIN

IT will be a long time before Miss Smith practises fly-fishing on a lawn again. She has lost heart. Yet the idea was sound. We followed the book faithfully: placed a saucer ten yards away, got out line, and tied a tag of white cloth on the end of the cast, so that Miss Smith could see how her aim was.

It was a big lawn, ideal for the job. Miss Smith showed a good natural sense of the rhythm, and was not doing badly at all.

But everyone had forgotten Joe.

Joe must have been lurking under the privet for quite a while. He is not an impulsive cat. He would lie watching that white tag swishing about for minutes on end, biding his time and calculating whether it was worth the energy. He is a dark tabby, who can make himself practically invisible in a garden.

Like A Sea-Trout

When Joe took, he took like a sea-trout. Poor Miss Smith had landed within inches of the saucer, and she was calling my attention to the fact and gently drawing in line with her left hand, which made the white tag trip along the lawn in a manner Joe must have found irresistible.

He had that white tag in his mouth and he was off like a salmon; and you should have seen Miss Smith.

Thank goodness, I thought, she isn't trying to hold him. Joe was tearing line off the reel in a strong run directly down the lawn, and at first I had some hope that he might double back and ease the strain. But the sound of the reel obviously pleased Joe, and he kept straight on.

Lying Doggo

At the end of the lawn he turned sharp right and took the line round the roller; and there he lay doggo—or perhaps catto—growling and grinning. Miss Smith started to reel in, and the top joint gave up and snapped just above the splice. As soon as the rod broke, Joe rolled over on his side and began to wash his stomach.

I was sorry that I had used a piece of stout salmon gut for the cast, just to help Miss Smith get out a straight line. Of course, the rod was my very oldest, a weary greenheart that has been broken twice before. Still, I might have sold it to Miss Smith, very cheap, had all gone well. I think she was getting quite keen.

Joe weighs 13 lbs. He is probably the heaviest tabby ever played on rod and line.

Reprinted from a recent issue of "The Sunday Times" by kind permission of the Editor.

Mrs. James E. O'Bryon, Secretary of the Cat Fanciers' Association, revealed at the annual general meeting of the Association in New York that there has been a growing interest in cats throughout the United States since the conclusion of the war. Many people anxious to get back to normalcy after trying years, have turned to cats as a hobby. In 1941 the Association registered 1,007 cats and 35 catteries. The 1949 figures were 4463 cats and 137 catteries.

Colour Inheritance

By ALBERT C. JUDE

THE facts of heredity have given us a fresh conception of the individual. So far, we have been accustomed to distinguish between the members of a family by assigning to each an individuality and by making use of certain external features (such as coat colour or markings) to express the individuality of these different animals. Otherwise, our idea of what constituted individuality in each case was but vague.

Now, instead of looking at an individual as a whole, vaguely marked off from its fellows, we are able to see it in terms of definite and built-up characters, depending primarily upon the number and variety of the factors that existed in the two gametes that went to its building.

The presence or absence of a comparatively small number of factors in a species carries with it the possibility of an enormous range of individual variations. In every instance the variation depends on the presence or absence of the definite factors carried in by the gametes from whose union the individual results. And as these factors separate out cleanly in the gametes which the individual forms, such variations as depend on them are transmitted strictly to the Mendelian scheme. If the constitution of the gametes is unchanged, the heredity of such variation is independent of any change in the conditions of nutrition or environment which may operate upon the individual producing the gametes.

Everyone knows, however, that animals often react quite clearly to

the environmental conditions under which their life is passed. This is particularly evident in the characters of size and weight. There is no evidence, however, that the effects of changed conditions are connected with alteration in the nature of the gametes which the individual produces.

We can say, therefore, that there are two sorts of variations: those which are due to heredity, and those which are due to direct effect from environment. The first are known as mutations, and the second can be termed fluctuations, for which at present there is no valid reason for supposing them ever to be inherited. There are cases, of course, where one might be led to feel that heredity plays a part, as, for instance, small kittens from undernourished cats.

It is natural to attribute the smaller size of the offspring to the conditions under which the parents were grown, and there is no doubt we should be right in doing so. But the fact remains that the position need have nothing to do with heredity. The kittens draw their nourishment from the mother, and their size is affected because the poorly nourished parent offered bad environment to the kittens, and not because the gametes of the parent were changed through the adverse conditions under which it grew. This parent is not only the producer of the gametes, but is also part of the environment of its kittens, and it is in this capacity that it affects its offspring.

The entire difference between the two variations and in their causation

gives a clear view of the process of evolution. Darwin pointed out that any theory of evolution must be based on the facts of heredity and variation. But to be of any moment in evolutionary change, a variation must be inherited; and to be inherited, it must be represented in the gametes.

In his earlier days Darwin placed more importance to "sports" as opposed to continuous small variations, and to consider that they might play a rather large part in the formation of new varieties in nature. He gave up this view later on because he felt that the relatively rare "sport" would rapidly disappear through the swamping effect of crossing with the more abundant normal, and so, even though favoured by natural selection, would never succeed in establishing itself.

Mendel's theory, however, eliminates the difficulty, for suppose that the "sports" differed from the normal by the loss of a factor, and were recessive. When mated with the normal, the character would *seem* to disappear, though, of course, half of the gametes of its progeny would bear it. By continual crossing with normals, a small proportion of the animals carrying one dose of the character would eventually be scattered among the population, and as soon as any two of them mated together the recessive "sport" would appear in one quarter of the offspring.

A population containing a very small proportion of dominants, and one containing a similar proportion of recessives, are equally stable. The term "dominant" must not mislead. A dominant character cannot by virtue of its dominance establish itself at the expense of a recessive one.

(To be continued)

DUAL MATING

News Flash.—A Siamese cat at Apsley, Herts, had three Siamese kittens and a Tabby.

Comment by Mr. A. C. Jude (our contributor on genetics):

One cannot offer an explanation in such cases without details of the complete parentage. It is certain, however, that one or each of the parents is of impure breeding.

In the absence of the needed particulars, we might consider the possibility of a "dual" mating. In such a case, a "pure" bred queen is mated with a "pure" bred stud of her breed, following which she might get loose and immediately mate with a mongrel. When coitus occurs the male releases an enormous number of sperms but the female will only shed the limited litter number of ova, which are duly fertilised.

In point of fact, the female can only produce sufficient eggs normally necessary for her life span. The sperms retain their vitality and power to fertilise for some little time when in the female generative tract, but the uterine orifice closes quite soon after copulation. If, therefore, two different males mate a queen in quick succession, it is possible that some of the ova will be fertilised by one male and the rest of the ova by the other male. But because of the shortness of time before the closing of the orifice, it is rare that dual mating is affected.

Where this does happen, the youngsters from the pure bred part of the dual mating will produce pure stock only, even though some of their litter brothers and sisters are mongrels. The dual mating does not adversely affect the queen's future from the pure breeding point of view.

Hints on Nursing

By FORCEPS

(Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)

ESPECIALLY nowadays, when overhead expenses are so heavy, labour almost unobtainable and dear, fresh accommodation hard to find, veterinary surgeons usually prefer to send a cat home rather than keep it "in hospital" after an operation.

Precautions having been taken to keep the animal warm, it may be sent home while still in the deep sleep following nembutal anaesthesia, and it wakes up in familiar surroundings, with all the scents and sounds and faces that it knows. This is all to the good, and recovery is likely to be more rapid and uneventful than when the cat is tended by strangers in surroundings new to it, and offered food to which, perhaps, it is unaccustomed. And how conservative cats can be, refusing whiting if they have been used to cod, sulking over meat if they are accustomed to an entirely fish diet!

The cat that is ill—as opposed to the surgical case—may with advantage be seen by your veterinary surgeon at home and nursed at home. If the illness is an infectious one the cat would have to be looked after at home, in any case. As many people are in some doubt as to what to do when left with a sick cat on their hands, and as one often receives enquiries concerning temperature-taking, diet, and so on, perhaps the following advice may prove helpful.

The cat has, of course, a highly nervous temperament, is easily scared and keenly resents any form of re-

straint or interference. A cat which is ill may easily be made worse by excessive or unnecessary handling, forcible feeding, dosing with liquids which it does not like, or being continually moved from some dark, secluded spot, which it has chosen for itself, to some warmer but lighter and less restful spot which the family think might be "better for it."

It is particularly necessary to impress upon children that a sick animal instinctively seeks seclusion, and that it often prefers a dark place where it will not be disturbed. Once children understand this they will enter sympathetically into the plan to leave the cat alone as much as possible.

A cat which is convalescent may need tempting with food of one kind or another, always fresh and in small quantities; but a cat which is ill, especially if its digestive system is seriously upset, can be as easily nauseated by heavy, unappetising food, left down before it, as any human patient who is feeling bilious. Never forcibly feed a cat. Clean, fresh water, with a little glucose or ordinary sugar in it, may be all that the veterinary surgeon recommends for a few days.

Cats dislike brandy intensely, as a rule, and will salivate so profusely that all the brandy is ejected unless very expertly given. Personally, I prefer glucose in the drinking water which the cat can sip as it wishes, with an injection of normal saline if the situation calls for it; no brandy, no forcible feeding of any kind.

LATEST NEWS ABOUT OLYMPIA

Since we last appeared much has been done towards ensuring the success of the Cat and Kitten Show at Olympia on 20th and 21st September next.

The Show is to be styled THE CRYSTAL CAT SHOW and this is the title we shall use in all future references to this mammoth event. "Crystal" for cats—"Cruft's" for dogs!

Mr. Compton Mackenzie has consented to be one of the patrons of the Show.

The important item of benching will be handled by Benches, Ltd. Pens will be arranged back-to-back on 6 ft. wide tables with wooden partitions between the rows of pens. An ingenious wire "hurdle" (with wide mesh) will be affixed to the protruding edges of the tables and when these are in place spectators will not be able to touch the exhibits.

Plans are in hand for publicity on a national scale through press, periodicals, radio, television, posters and advertising.

Mr. A. Towe (Show Manager) is hard at work preparing the Schedule, which should be ready in four weeks' time.

An impressive list of judges has been prepared and names will appear in our next issue. We shall also be able to announce details of some of the classes, competitions and trophies.

More information is to be found on pages 30 and 31 of this issue.

It may be desirable to know the cat's temperature. This is taken *per rectum* and it is absolutely essential to lubricate the thermometer end with vaseline before introducing it. The cat's normal temperature is approximately 100.4, about 0.6 of a degree less than a dog's. Some cats dislike temperature-taking less than others, but the handling and holding which it involves is best avoided unless the veterinary surgeon has requested it to be done; for example, in order to ascertain whether a penicillin injection or "M. and B." is successfully overcoming the infection or not.

Remember to provide a sick cat with a sand or earth box in the room. Unless this is done, a house-trained cat may suffer some distress. Warmth may be less important than an absence of draughts. A cat will be uncomfortable if placed too close to a fire. If suffering from shock, warmth is necessary, and a *well-covered* hot-water bottle may come in handy.

How to Give Pills

At the Royal Veterinary College electric blankets have been found very serviceable for cats recovering from accidents, operations, etc. There is less bulk, and the heat is less fierce to begin with and is constant.

When it is necessary to hold a cat for purposes of examination, or for dressing a wound, do so in such a way that the cat has all four feet on the ground. A cat will bitterly resent being held on its side or on its back. For giving a pill, for example, it is usually only necessary—with the cat sitting—to grasp the front legs above the elbows. Occasionally it may be necessary to hold the back legs, above the hocks, with the other hand, leaving a second person to do whatever is necessary. But with a sick cat, the less handling the better.



Tailpieces

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



AN amusing piece of evidence cropped up in a recent hearing in the Divorce Court when an Ealing husband was suing his wife for desertion. The parties were married in 1946 and the judge, in granting a decree nisi, remarked that a wife who demanded that her husband, on coming home from work each day, should kiss her, then her sister, and finally the cat had adopted a very unreasonable attitude.

Writing to a London newspaper, Miss Elizabeth Burchell, of North London, reports that her cat has a whisker span of 10 ins. Is this a record?

A Persian cat living in West London caught its head in a 2 lb. jam jar. It managed to break the jar but the neck remained firmly fixed. A R.S.P.C.A. officer was called in to administer chloroform and a complete release was effected.

Another contributor to the daily press writes: While I was sewing I noticed my Longhaired Tabby lying fast asleep on a sitting-room chair. A few minutes later I heard a kitten's miaow. The cat had given birth to a kitten and was looking most surprised. Soon there were two more. I've never seen so little fuss.

Mr. A. C. Jude, our contributor, is President of the National Mouse Club. He has recently written a book entitled "The Fancy Mouse,"

which has been accepted as a standard work on the subject.

Alderman Hiden, an Evesham councillor, thinks that rat catchers (now officially styled Rodent Control Officers) are unnecessary. He told the council that his cat had caught 79 rats, 7 rabbits and hundreds of mice. She had just had kittens and the members were invited to adopt some of them.

News has just reached me that this year's Easter worship in the San Gorgonio Pass, Beaumont, U.S.A., included the blessing of cats, dogs and other pets at the St. Boniface Indian School. This ceremony was initiated by Mr. Guy Bogart (one of our readers), who is Californian State Chairman of National Cat Week and is, of course, an ancient ceremony in Latin-speaking countries. Father Gerard, who urged people of all denominations to bring their pets, said: "There is a beautiful spiritual significance in the blessing of these little brothers of nature."

Dr. W. A. Young, well-known Chicago veterinarian, contributes an interesting report in the "Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association." Cat owners, he says, should take their pets to have their teeth cleaned regularly two or three times a year. Cats which live easy lives are likely to be victims of tartar incrustation with attendant pyorrhœa and eventual loss of teeth.

Cleaning and a varied diet, especially one containing fresh or uncooked foods, will clear up the gum disease in many cases. But when this does not help, pussy must have her teeth pulled. Marked improvement in general health with probable extension of life has been noted in many cats having all their teeth extracted. They are better off without their teeth than to have their bodies constantly absorbing the toxic products of chronic infection. Stomach inflammation, kidney disease and other debilitating conditions have in many cases been traced to infections in the cat's mouth.

When a fire broke out in a Watford canteen, firemen tried unsuccessfully to rescue a cat and her two kittens and a Labrador dog. The canteen was on a building site.

A preliminary meeting for the purpose of forming a cat club to be styled the Surrey and Sussex Cat Association was held last month at the Banstead home of Mrs. Vize. Those present were the hostess, Mrs. Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker and Miss von Ullmann. Fanciers, breeders and exhibitors have been circularised and offers of membership, suggestions and criti-

cisms invited. The purpose of the Club is to encourage new breeders and novice exhibitors to show their cats. It will serve as a nursery for stewards and show officials as it is proposed to hold shows in the important centres of Surrey and Sussex and so take the show to the people. A provisional list of officials and committee members has been drawn up and further meetings are planned. Membership subscription will be 3s. 6d. per annum, plus a small charge for the book of rules in lieu of an entry fee.

Here's a job for some tough mouser! An American drug salesman is nervous about going into his garage. A mouse broke into a supply of dog food. Then the salesman noticed that some twenty high-potency vitamin capsules had been taken from a box on a shelf. A little later on a bottle of cod liver oil was knocked over and broken and the contents were lapped up. The salesman is now a trifle nervous about meeting that mouse!

"A terrible story," commented the judge at Southend Juvenile Court when he fined a girl of 15 £4 8s. for causing unnecessary suffering to a cat.

MICKEY

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"Cats make beautiful subjects"

I HAVE just spent an hour with a most enthralling book. And when I have finally finished with it I doubt very much that it will repose for long in the bookcase to become dusty and forgotten—it's not that kind of book. It will be handy to have about the place when animal-loving friends drop in for a chat and a cup of tea. Should conversation flag my book would come to the rescue; it will do nicely, too, to keep anyone quiet for an hour or so.

The title of this work is "*Pets Before My Camera*,"* by Adolf Morath, a 45-year-old animal lover and humanitarian whose previous books aroused great interest throughout the photographic world. Mr. Morath was destined for his family's jewellery business, but he quickly tired of this calling as a young man and set his heart on photography. He graduated through the practical school of Press photography and later turned his eye and hand to the more artistic side.

His latest book, devoted to the fascinating subject of pet photography, shows his genius at work and it also reveals a great love and understanding for animals and birds. It is dedicated to the memory of his best friend, Kerry, a blue roan spaniel, whose picture adorns the frontispiece.

"*Pets Before My Camera*" contains over 150 plates (many of them full pages) of cats, dogs, horses, monkeys, farm animals and a few birds. The technical details are given with each example, explaining

the procedure and lighting arrangements adopted by the author to capture his picture. The book therefore is a valuable guide to all those who wish to succeed in this interesting branch of photography. Chapters are included on apparatus and materials required, outdoor and indoor work, composition and grouping, technical problems and colour photography.

"Cats," writes Mr. Morath, "make beautiful subjects for the portrait photographer. Their outstanding feature pictorially consists in the very beautiful and graceful lines their bodies make in almost any attitude they adopt. A well-taken cat portrait is a beautiful work of art." And he reminds his readers that the lines and curves of a cat's body were fully appreciated by the great Leonardo da Vinci, who made the lovely sketches of cats that remain to this day an inspiration to photographers and artists alike.

I hope the Editor will let me return to this book at some future date as there is so much more one could find to write about. He has at least been gracious enough to find room on another page of this issue for a reproduction of one of the lovely cat studies which appear in Mr. Morath's book.

* "*Pets Before my Camera*," Adolf Morath. George Newnes Ltd. 30s. net.



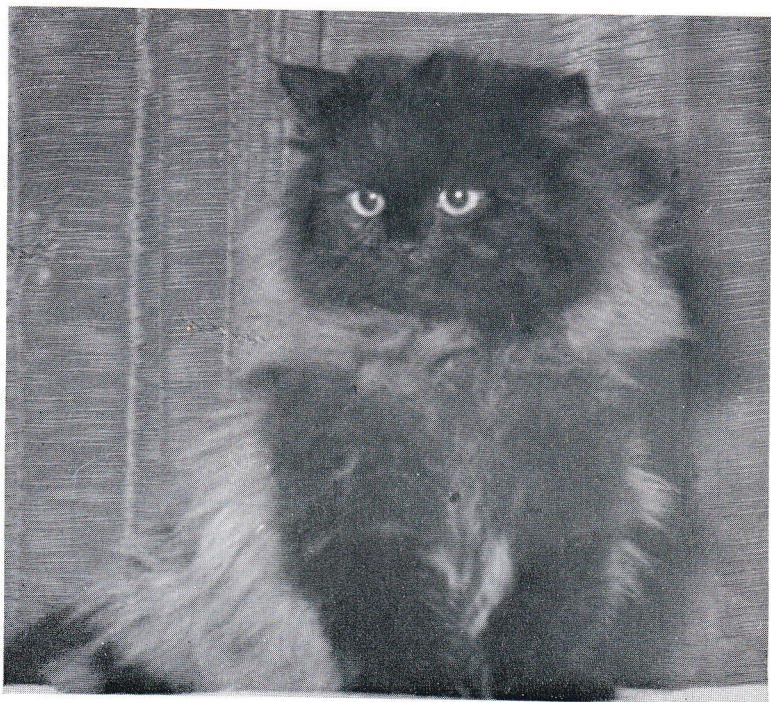


A DUTIFUL FATHER

Here is one of the many fine illustrations in Adolf Morath's book, "Pets Before My Camera," which is reviewed on the opposite page. Peel, a ginger Manx, commenced toilet operations when he was placed on a table with one of his young sons and so another fine picture was "made." Reproduced by kind permission of the publishers.



A gem of a kitten! CARREG CRACKER, orange-eyed White Longhair bred and owned by Mrs. D. Herod, of Lichfield, Staffs. Our picture shows him at six months. A month earlier he was Best Longhair Kitten in Show at the last Notts and Derbys Ch. Show. Cracker is a cat of exquisite type and some interesting facts about him are to be found on page 32.

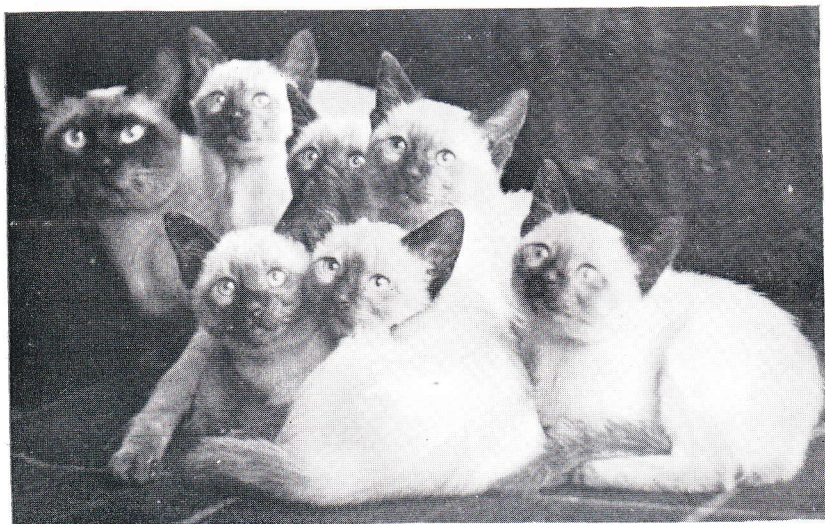


Handsome six months old Smoke Male
YAMILO DE VALRIVE, bred and owned by
Mme. G. Curchod, of Lausanne, Switzerland,
who is Secretary of the local Cat Club
Vaudios. Note the moire background which
harmonises with the contrasting shades of
the kitten. A Smoke is a cat of contrasts
with the white under colour shading to black.



Keystone Press Agency

Two Blue Longhair kittens with a future—THIEPVAL BEAU GESTE (right) and THIEPVAL BEAU IDEAL—bred by Mrs. Crickmore, the successful Lowestoft Fancier, and shown here by Mrs. Slack.



“We are seven, including Mum!” This fine family portrait of FIXBY FUCHSIA and her six 8 weeks old kittens comes from the Rev. and Mrs. Priston, of Worsboro Dale, Barnsley. An accompanying note explains that the kittens had to be bathed before they could meet the photographer because they had been exploring a sooty chimney. Fuchsia persistently bites their whiskers off! The Rev. Priston asks: Is this an old Siamese custom?

Care & Management by **P. M. SODERBERG**

Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club
and author of "Cat Breeding and
General Management"

How to Breed Champions

THIS certainly looks an ambitious title and may appear somewhat presumptuous, but in actual fact it is nothing of the sort.

Theoretically it should be comparatively simple to breed cats of outstanding quality provided that the foundation stock is right. That, however, is where the rub lies, for the breeder knows far too little about the stock on which he hopes to found the reputation of his cattery. If he could have a complete picture of the genetic make-up of these few foundation animals he would know what to expect when any two of them were mated together. The completeness of the genetic make-up here refers only to show qualities.

Unfortunately, the only satisfactory way of learning even part of this picture is to breed from the animals and to see what the results are. It is from progeny alone that the sound qualities or the weaknesses of a mated pair can be assessed. This is not very helpful from a practical point of view, is it? It is, nevertheless, a statement of fact and if it is accepted as such it will save cat

breeders from adopting methods which are merely a waste of time.

Some breeders seem to believe that selective breeding will produce animals of outstanding quality in the long run. That is a very nice theory, but it has little practical application of any real value.

It may be argued that our different breeds of cats have all been produced as a result of selective breeding from some few common ancestors. Up to a point that is true, but the breeds as we know them to-day are not entirely the result of man's careful selection, but are due rather to the pranks which Nature from time to time decides to play.

Every so often a "variation" appears, and it is this special animal which may have a profound effect on any particular breed. What has really happened is this. An animal has been born whose genetic make-up is different from all its brothers and sisters and also different from that of its ancestors.

This difference may refer only to one particular quality and perhaps one or two others which are allied to it. It may be colour

affecting both coat and eye, or it may be size of ears combined with width of skull. Not only may it possess these qualities in itself, but be capable of passing them on to its progeny. On the other hand, it may not show such qualities and yet be capable of imprinting them on its offspring.

If this animal is capable of passing on qualities which are desirable in show specimens, then it is a very valuable creature indeed, and when once its differences have been realised, it will be of great value to breeders.

Variations

The next question is, of course, "How can such an animal be recognised?" I doubt if it can, although shrewd breeders will have learned from experience that, when mated to their own queens, this "variation," assuming that it is a male, produces the results which are most satisfactory. It is only when one looks back on the history of any breed of animal that one can pick out the few animals who have stamped their own quality indelibly upon the breed or, if they themselves were not outstanding in appearance, still produced a profound effect on future generations.

Although recognition may come late, it is rarely too late to go back and pick up a blood line. A careful study of pedigrees will show some animals which have this specimen of outstanding

quality several times in their ancestry.

I suppose the practical side of this very theoretical article is that it is far better to choose the stud for your queens by looking at his children than by looking at the male himself. This does not mean that you can judge from one litter, because the queen also has her part to play in the make-up of the family. When, however, time after time and with different queens a male produces kittens of quality above the average, he is the stud to use, for he may be that "variation" for which the keen breeder is always looking.

Rare Queens

There is another side to the problem which must not be forgotten. It is sometimes the female which is the "variation," and she is far more difficult to spot; but when you have a queen who produces show specimens in every litter, even when different sires have been used, you may then suspect that you have one of those rare animals who, if carefully mated, will help the particular breed to a greater pitch of perfection.

Let us admit, then, that selective breeding within a limited group of individuals is not likely to show much progress. At first improvement may appear to be rapid, but a stop soon comes. There is a limit, for you cannot expect to go further than the

genetic differences which exist in the parents.

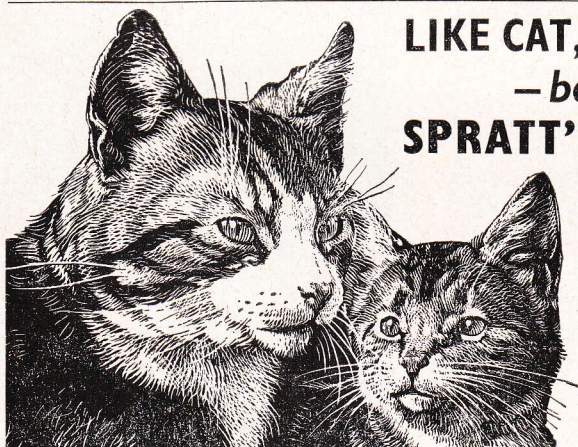
In practice you will find that the biggest changes will be brought about by an outcross. This in some cases will be into another breed, but much more often by choosing a male who appears not to be related to your own stock. If the resulting litter shows a marked improvement it means that your choice has been fortunate and there is cause for congratulation.

You would be more than lucky if there were a champion in the litter and yet you would not know which parent was mainly responsible for this. You could find out however, by mating a son to his mother and a daughter

to her father. That is close in-breeding if you like, but it might pay handsomely as an experiment, particularly if you made up your mind that under no circumstances would you continue to in-breed these families.

Champions in many groups of animals have been produced by just this method, and to-day in-breeding and line breeding are in common use. Both methods are bound to fix good and bad qualities in a particular strain. For a breeder who is not really experienced to attempt more than one mating of this kind is to court disaster.

Why? I am afraid that the reasons would fill a book!



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WE have said it before and there will be no harm done if we say it again! Every Fancy is found to be full of interesting personalities if one has the time and energy to get around to know them. Our Cat Fancy is no exception.

That busy little lady over there, for instance, who is tending her exhibit at the Siamese Club Show. Perhaps you have seen her at other shows. She is a sincere and genuine cat lover who is keen to make her small contribution to the success of the show in her own unobtrusive way. You talk to her and are not surprised to find that she has a graciousness and charm that can come only from the past. She never hits the headlines now and is well content to play a minor role although she likes to be up to date with the activities of the various catty organisations.

But it was not always so. Years ago—when her name appeared in big letters at the top of the bill—well, that's a different story.

Her name? Miss Helena Beecham, sister of our famous impresario, Sir Thomas. But you will know her better, particularly if you happen to be a devotee of ballet, under her stage name of Mlle. Helena Dolli, ex prima ballerina assoluta Anglo-Italian and former pupil teacher of La Scala Academy, Milan.

Mme. Dolli now lives in quiet retirement in her flat at Ravenscourt Park, where her companions are Roxane Muffette, a very nice young Siamese queen (whom she likes to show occa-



Prima ballerina Helena Dolli and Vet.

sionally) and Whiskers Magpie, a handsome black and white Longhair.

Mme. Dolli's home contains much to remind one of her great affection for cats. It is

also a storehouse of interesting souvenirs of the carefree days prior to the first World War. The walls of one room are wholly covered with framed photographs of her in various dancing rôles and theatre announcements of her appearance as star performer.

One of her treasures is a huge book of press cuttings and to be found therein are numerous



references to Mlle. Dolli's appearances on the stage with her famous cat Vet, whose picture appears on this page.

Mme. Dolli revealed to OUR CATS that Vet came originally from America, where he was known as a Maltese. He was really a Russian Blue. On his arrival in London he distinguished himself at a cat show held at the Botanical Gardens many years ago, taking first prize, which consisted of two solid silver candlesticks given by

the late Duchess of Bedford, also a silver medal. He was noticed by Queen Alexandra, then Princess of Wales.

Vet afterwards went on the stage with Mlle. Dolli, taking part in the pantomime "Goody Two Shoes" at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction. Then again at Aldershot Variety Theatre in a special military act with members of the Middlesex Regiment. On the first night, at the end of this performance, he took Mlle. Dolli's call the second time, walking across the stage with dignity, and on facing the footlights Vet, with an angry snort, tossed his Tommy cap into the orchestra. On another occasion he refused to go on the stage, bolting through the stage door and up the street with Mlle. Dolli's maid and stage hands in hot pursuit. He was recaptured and duly performed his act.

Vet often accompanied Mlle. Dolli to her dancing lessons at the studios of Madame Lucia Cormani, who presented him with a little silver bell to wear round his neck. When fifteen years of age this remarkable cat took third prize at the Crystal Palace. He eventually retired into the country and died at the fine old age of 20 years.

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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.

5th April. About sixty Fanciers attended the tea-party given by Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Macdonald at Fleming's Restaurant to discuss the Show they are promoting at Olympia on 20th and 21st September. A number of them travelled long distances in order to be present. Eight breeders who are delegates to the Governing Council were among those present. Mrs. Duncan Hindley expressed her opinion about the size of the pens, which was an important question as they will be made especially for this Show. The majority agreed with her that 2 ft. 6 ins. in length would be the most useful size, with a door 1 ft. square opening level with the staging. Judges and stewards know the advantage that will be, instead of having to cope with lifting heavy cats up and over about three inches of wire. All pens will be the same size, which will give an air of uniformity.

Every known precaution will be taken at the Show to guard against infection. Teams of qualified veterinarians will be in attendance when the exhibits are admitted. Each exhibitor will be given a card with the

name of the vet. to whom their cats have been allocated. After passing the vet. they will pen their exhibits and every basket will be taken to a separate room, ticketed, and sprayed with an atomiser containing an efficient disinfectant that is harmless to cats. Two vets. will be in attendance all day on both days of the Show, and one on night duty.

The judges will have new white enamel tables on rubber wheels such as are used in hospitals. These tables will probably have two tiers, one to judge the cats on and one underneath for towels and bowls of disinfectant.

The schedules will be set out as simply as possible, as literally hundreds will be sent out free of charge as usual, but the catalogue will be more elaborate, and as all well-wishers hope the number of persons attending will be literally thousands, it should be a fine medium for advertising studs and stock.

The reception room (reserved for important visitors at Olympia) will be presided over by the promoters and three or four very well known Fanciers, two of whom will be Mrs. Duncan Hindley and Mr. Soderberg. The last named will be especially valuable as he speaks fluent French and other languages. Visitors from abroad will be made very welcome and it will be a wonderful opportunity for breeders to present their stock to a large public. Twelve feet gangways will divide the rows of pens and the pens themselves are to

have special attachments to prevent spectators from poking their fingers through, a practice which so irritates exhibitors.

Several well-known firms will be represented by displays and probably models of cat houses will be exhibited complete with cats and kittens. Cat periodicals and everything appertaining to cats will, it is hoped, be well represented.

Sixteen judges have accepted to judge. Siamese will be splendidly catered for with Mrs. E. Hart (Hon. Secretary of the S.C.C.), Mrs. Sayers and Miss Gold officiating. The list of Longhair judges will not be settled until entries indicate the strength of the various classes, and then the most experienced judges will be selected for the largest classes. Few side classes will be scheduled so exhibits will not have much handling.

The fact that this Show will not be organised under G.C. rules does not mean that important rules will be flouted. No show manager has ever taken greater precautions for the safety and welfare of exhibits than those Mr. Towe will provide on the occasion of this Olympia Show. Everyone who has worked with him knows how thorough he is and he will have the assistance of a team of willing and devoted workers.

Judges will be allowed to exhibit cats if they are varieties which they are not judging. Also, if they wish to display their cats "Not for competition," they can do so, a concession allowed at any show held under G.C. rules.

6th April. Mme. Sarrazin, of Paris, has purchased Southway Rascal (bred by Mr. Jack Martin) from Mrs. Brunton. Rascal was Best Kitten and Best Exhibit in Show at the Notts and Derby C.C. Ch. Show, January, 1949. All kind wishes to his new owner for his future success

as an adult male. By Dickon of Allington ex Southway Whiz, perhaps he will emulate his three famous brothers, all full Champions?

7th April. What might have been a very distressing experience happened to a Fancier well known for his devotion to animals. I record the incident because it reveals how necessary it is to declare higher value on cats which are travelling and to pay the fees especially if they have to change trains. This Fancier went to all the trouble and expense of taking his cat to a stud owner (who is not particularly well known) in the Midlands. He spent most of the day travelling and naturally assumed that every possible care would be taken when the queen was returned. On being informed of the time she would arrive his wife went to London to meet her, but no cat arrived. On making frantic telephone calls and with the co-operation of the railway officials, they found the basket was shunted into a siding with other goods as it was not marked "Livestock" and had not been insured. Further enquiry elicited the fact that the poor unfortunate queen had been given by the stud owner to a taxi driver to despatch. Things went wrong when the cat had to change trains. If higher value is declared I understand the cat has to be signed for when it changes trains in transit and can be traced more easily if anything should go wrong.

12th April. The A.G.M. of the National Cat Club was held at the Grosvenor Hotel. Members present stood in silence to the memory of the late Chairman and Hon. Secretary, Mr. Cyril Yeates, with whom we particularly associate this Club, and for which he worked so devotedly. The Rev. Basil Rees, a member of the Committee, was elected Chairman,

and owing to his succeeding to this position, the resignation from the Committee of Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson and my own resignation from the Committee and the Club, three vacancies occurred. Mrs. Price and Mr. Stirling Webb were elected by ballot to fill these vacancies. Mrs. Speirs was elected delegate to the Governing Council in place of Mrs. Cattermole, who now represents the Black and White Cat Club. Miss Phillips has consented to organise the next Show, which will take place on 5th December at Paddington Baths Hall.

The following judges will officiate: Blacks and Whites, Miss K. Yorke; Blue Adults, Miss Langston; Blue Kittens, Mrs. Bazeley; Siamese Adults, Mrs. Holroyd; Siamese Kittens, Mr. Stirling-Webb; Creams and Blue Creams, Mr. Felix Tomlinson; Reds, Tortie and Whites and Brown Tabbies, Mrs. Cattermole; Chinchillas and Smokes, Mrs. McLeod; Shorthairs and Abyssinians, Miss Beckett. Referee judge, Miss J. M. Fisher. Best in Show will be judged by a panel of three—Miss Langston, Miss Beckett and Mr. Tomlinson.

18th April. A welcome letter from Mr. and Mrs. Herod enclosing the very lovely photo published elsewhere in this issue of Carreg Cracker, which readers abroad may be interested to hear was Best Longhair kitten in Show at the Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club Ch. Show in January. Miss K. Yorke awarded him first in a maiden class of 17. Her report read: "Mrs. Herod's Carreg Cracker, golden-eyed white, perfect little picture, deserved his win of best Longhair kitten. Purity and length of coat lovely to see and feel, so soft in texture and beautifully groomed. Excels in type, tiny ears, lovely top of head, large round well-

opened eyes with width between, giving a short, broad nose with a good stop. Anyone who remembers Mrs. Bazeley's Rose Alba, sire of Ch. Wotan, would know what a gem this five months old kitten is." His breeding is interesting, so I give the colours in brackets. Sire: Ch. Carreg Comfort (Blue-eyed White), son of Sweetaboy (Cream) and Wyndways Fortune (White). Cracker's dam is Carreg Carol (Cream), daughter of Walverdene Major and Byways Tuffetty (both Creams). Mr. and Mrs. Herod's ambition is to breed pale sound Creams and they intend to try to do so by using Longhair Whites. Two of their Cream queens have been mated to their White male Ch. C. Comfort and they are telling me later the colours of the kittens. Judging from the photo and the good report, they have achieved a White male of beautiful type, and that will be a great asset to this variety. Mrs. Herod tells me their young daughter goes to bed at 9 p.m., but if she is later Cracker knows the proper time so precedes her and goes to sleep on her bed!

26th April. The Southern Counties Cat Club held its A.G.M. at the Goring Hotel, Victoria. Owing to the lamented death of our former Chairman, Mr. Yeates, Miss Kathleen Yorke was elected to fill that office. A ballot was taken and Mrs. Speirs was elected to the Committee and Mrs. K. R. Williams (Hon. Secretary) and myself were returned as delegates to the Governing Council. Miss J. M. Fisher was awarded a silver bonbon dish, presented by our President, Mrs. Slingsby, for Best Longhair Brown Tabby kitten, a very popular award as she has done so much to keep the flag flying for this variety.

Another popular award was a similar trophy won by Mrs. Chap-

man's Blue Chinchilla, Bridgway Timothy, a neuter which excels in type and quality. The Club's annual Show will be held on 29th January next at Lime Grove Hall, Shepherd's Bush. The following judges have consented to officiate: Blue Adults, Mrs. Chappell; Blue Kittens, Mrs. Hancox; Blacks, also Whites, Mrs. Brunton; Creams and Blue Creams, Miss Kathleen Yorke; Reds, Torties and Whites, Brown Tabbies, Mrs. Corke; Silvers, Smokes and Chinchillas, Mr. Norris; Shorthairs and Abyssinians and Longhair Neuters, Miss K. Wilson; Shorthair Neuters, Rev. Basil Rees; Siamese Adults, Mrs. Elsie Hart; Siamese Kittens, Mrs. Sayers; Best in Show awards will be decided by one Longhair judge, one Shorthair judge, and the referee, Mr. Jack Martin.

28th April. The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy met at the Grosvenor Hotel. Miss Kit Wilson tendered her resignation as Chairman owing to the increasing amount of time she has to give to her professional engagements as a teacher of dramatic art, and as she rightly said, "The stage is an exacting profession." Miss Kathleen Yorke was elected Chairman and the Rev. Basil Rees Vice-Chairman. The following delegates were voted to the Executive Committee: Mrs. Axon, Mrs. M. Brunton, Mrs. Elsie Hart, Miss Evelyn Langston, Mrs. Joan Thompson, Mrs. K. R. Williams, Miss Kit Wilson and Mr. B. Stirling-Webb. In addition to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer (Miss J. M. Fisher), and the Secretary (Mr. W. A. Hazeldine), who are present at all G.C. meetings, Mrs. Axon was elected on to the Finance Committee. After a lengthy meeting several delegates went over to our usual rendezvous and had a well-earned meal.

In the evening I had the pleasure of meeting Fru Skytte-Birkefeldt, of



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Aarhus, Jutland, who is in England on a visit to her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Castle, of Rutland Gate. I last saw her at Fru Lis Langberg's in Copenhagen in October. We talked over the Show and I was pleased to hear that Fru Rudy Eisenhuth is now President of the Danish Racekatten Cat Club, to which she has been a very generous patron. There will be a three-day show in Stockholm in June at which Miss K. Yorke will judge. Mrs. Castle had just attended the private viewing at the Royal Academy and was thrilled that her statue of a reclining woman had been accepted. Fru Skytte-Birkefeldt owns the famous Siamese Int. Ch. Monty of Birma, who has won in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Switzerland.

29th April. I hear Miss Kit Wilson is publishing another book on cats. It will have about twenty illustrations, cost about 5s., and be published in the autumn. It will be another welcome addition to my cat library. Mr. Soderberg is also energetically compiling another work containing about 25,000 words called "Your Pet," price about 2s. 6d., to appear in the autumn under the auspices of Messrs. Cassells. Writing of publications, it is obvious that a number of readers do not know that the Governing Council issue a booklet called "List of Cats at Stud." It contains the names of about 200 males and can be obtained, price 3d., from the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. Many breeders write to me about mates for their queens, and as they can see on this list the sire, dam and grandparents of the males, it is a very useful publication.

Interesting news came from Mrs. Myrtle Shipe about her imported Blacks Chadhurst Samson and Chloe. She writes: "Both have put on quite

a bit of weight and no wonder, as they have very good appetites. We like them so very much; both appear very contented and happy here. They have the run of our home and, believe me, they do run! I wish you could see them scamper about in the morning with my seven-month-old female by Ch. Great Lakes Charcoal. Although she is youngest, she holds her own with her English friends and can break just as many things. We call her Me-Too. They are a lovely, lively trio."

Mrs. Shipe travelled 700 miles in April to attend a Board Meeting of the C.F.A. in New York, and she finds her office as President of the C.F.A. adds considerably to her correspondence but is very interested in the work and everything to do with cats.

Mrs. Hacking, of Redwalls Chinchillas fame, has sent me news she has had from Mrs. Hawkes, of Melbourne, Australia. When in England last summer, Mrs. Hawkes purchased Redwalls Fleurette and Sarisbury Lorenzo, the latter bred by Mrs. Warren, of Maidstone. Their voyage took six weeks, but a Chinese carpenter took charge of the kittens and became very attached to them. Owing to some papers being lost, they had to stay in the ship another three weeks and then six weeks quarantine. As Mrs. Hawkes writes: "What a journey! But now they are out of quarantine and safely at home, they have settled down and are looking wonderful. Fleurette is as pretty as ever and has lost all her fears now she has the run of a home. Lorenzo is huge for his age and I am so pleased with him. I was thrilled with the photo of Fleurette in OUR CATS. Mrs. Hacking then gives me her own news: "I have some lovely Chinchilla kittens and the two females I bought, Sarisbury Rosaleen and Foxburrow Wendy

(daughter of Ch. Langherne Winsome), are due to kitten next week, and both my last season's winning Creams are in kitten to Blues." One of these, Anchor Cream Cracker, was Best Longhair kitten at the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show last September.

Mrs. Herms, of Tarrytown, New York, breeder of many lovely Blacks and Siamese, owns the famous Black male Double Ch. Hermscrest Natajha, which I made Best Black Adult in January. I admired his lovely head and type very much and was so interested to hear later about his distinguished career. He has won at many big Ch. Shows in U.S.A. Mrs. Herms has already had six invitations to judge this coming winter and may go to California. At the Keystone Show at Atlantic City, 11th and 12th March, Mrs. Herms made Mrs. Earl Nack's very lovely Shaded Silver female Ch. Kute Kit

Silver Dinah Best Cat in Show. This is the cat which won Best shaded Silver under Miss Doris Hobbs at the 29th Silver Society Speciality Show and the same award under me at the all-breed Show on 12th and 13th January. Mrs. Herms' remarks: "Dinah was still in lovely coat and condition and so well shown. She is a beautiful cat."

NEXT MONTH!

"Cat and Dog," by Dilys Powell, the well-known critic and broadcaster.

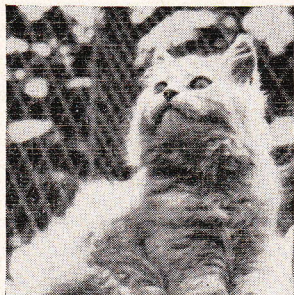
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Correspondence Corner

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

THAT FRENCH DECREE

On opening OUR CATS for April this morning, I was surprised to read under the heading "Cat Haters are Busy" a reference to the decree issued by Pierre Pflimlin, former French Minister of Agriculture, which seemed to imply that he also should be placed in that category. On the contrary, I and my cat-loving friends had read of this decree with gratitude!

In this part of France, where there is next to nothing for the "chasseurs" to shoot at, they often kill cats "for sport." It is a common "joke" to serve cat for rabbit to one's friends and afterwards display the head and tail; or, if one has a grudge against a neighbour, an easy vengeance is to catch and kill his cat. The fact that quite ordinary domestic cats are often found in a semi-wild state in the nearby woods and countryside is due to the habit of "losing" an unwanted cat rather than destroying it.

The peasants are superstitious about killing cats themselves as they say it brings ill-luck. To neglect, starve, kick or "lose" is another matter and of no importance. Even new-born kittens are sometimes put in a hole in the ground and have earth or ashes thrown over them and left to die of suffocation.

However, there are many cat owners in this village to-day who are devoted to their own pet and proud of it. But even this affection is more due to "what's mine's mine" rather than to a broadminded love of cats in general. Perhaps I am unjust?

So, you see, the fact that the

decree, taken inversely, forbade the shooting or killing of a cat within 200 metres of an inhabited house, implied that a domestic or farm cat was a useful member of society and should be protected as such. Therefore, my friends and I were relieved and "breathed again."

My copy of OUR CATS is helping young and old, rich and poor folks. The photographs speak an international language.

Mrs. Lois Hutton,
Saint-Paul, Alpes Maritime, France.

MORE ABOUT UNFIT HOMES

In reply to Mr. Allt's letter in the April issue on the above subject, I should like to ask him one or two questions. (1) When disposing of a kitten, what is his prime object—finding a good home or finding a customer who will pay his price? (2) Who is going to decide what is a fit and proper home for a kitten? People can kill animals by kindness. Unless a person is deliberately cruel and neglectful to a kitten, as far as I can see nothing can be done.

It has been said that a cattery is not a congenial home for cats. Many people object to cats being penned with no one to fuss and pet them. I agree it's a matter of opinion, but you will never get complete agreement on these things. You may not like the looks of your clients and less still where they live, but they may be kindness itself to their cats. I personally am prepared and expect to pay a fair price for a pedigree cat, but I don't consider all pedigree cats to be "Rolls Royce" quality. I repeat, I don't see any cause for

alarm regarding homes for pedigree kittens.

L. Owen Jones,
Guildford, Surrey.

ON KEEPING A STUD

May I enter a plea on behalf of the stud cat? When I decided to acquire a husband for my Siamese queen, all the "don'ts" in P. M. Soderberg's shrewd and stimulating article in the February issue of OUR CATS were forcibly put to me by friends and fellow Siamese lovers.

However, I went ahead and feel there is an enchantment which cat lovers may miss through keeping only females or neuters—or their studs in catteries. Contrary to the article mentioned above, my difficulty lies not in keeping my stud out of the house but *in* it. However, with a little practice I soon developed a convincing imitation of a Siamese queen's call, which always brings him promptly to the spot, though you can imagine that amongst the neighbours my appearance, wandering up and down the lane uttering wild and melancholy howls, creates—in Lady Macbeth's words—much admired disorder.

My stud has the run of the house and a favourite box bush outside the kitchen door, plus a sawdust box for emergencies in the conservatory, ensures no nuisance, although we do have to be watchful when people visit us who have queens at home! His affection and intelligence is inexhaustible; he goes shopping on my shoulder and can open almost any door, window or fishpan.

Disadvantages? Well, one must have spare time to be watchful when he is in the garden. But the main worry which I experience is that when friends see him soon after we have had a visiting queen (whom we keep two to four days) they are certain that he has worms or is ill, as

he always goes very thin afterwards. Then I have to endure a week or so of misery wondering if he has really contracted some infection until he resumes his normal sleek, healthy appearance. Also, his meals must be supervised as he will not eat even from a separate dish until the queens have finished.

Finally, may I say that I consider Mr. Soderberg's article a very sound one, but would like to put before your readers these points in favour of keeping a stud as a friend. Those who can spare the time and energy needed for extra care and training will be rewarded by the love of a healthy, intelligent animal who is allowed to fulfil his natural functions and help in the care and upbringing of his own kittens.

Patricia Gregory,
Calverton Down, Bath, Somerset.

A LINK WITH CANADA

Your Magazine gets better and better. There are so many interesting articles that I hardly know which to read first. I feel that I know so many of your Fanciers just by reading about them and their cats. How we would like to visit some of your shows! You seem to have so many entries to what we are able to get over here. Your Olympia Show sounds spectacular, but I'm afraid we'll have to be satisfied just to read about it. Perhaps *some day*!

Mrs. Harold Lee,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

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WANTED, Lady to look after Cats and Kittens in London during owner's holiday.—Write Box 16, "Our Cats" Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, S.W.9.

In Memoriam

SIMBA FITZ MATTHEW, well-known Chinchilla neuter, son of Ch. Matthews of Green-gables. Bred and owned by Mrs. Chas. Polden with whom he lived all his 10 years. Dearly loved, he lives on in our hearts.

(Continued on following page)

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.

PLEASE HELP the unfortunates among our Feline Friends. Join the Cats' Protection League, Slough, Bucks.

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.

PRIZE LIMERICK

The progressive Natal Cat Club of South Africa recently ran a prize competition for the best two lines to complete a limerick. This was the winning effort by Mr. L. A. Bishop, of Pietermaritzburg.

*There was a White Persian called
Sally
Round whom all the gay toms did
rally
She'd say with a sniff
"I don't fancy your whiff,
You lower the tone of our alley."*

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KEEP CATS KITTENISH



Workers and Spivs

BEWILDERED by the complexity of human conduct, writes Mr. Chapman Pincher in the "Daily Express," psychologists have been studying cats to see how a simpler mind works. Their findings have been reported in a scientific document concerning which we hope to have more to say in a later issue of OUR CATS.

The psychologists trained their cats to operate an automatic feeder. Each time a cat pressed a spring-loaded electric switch the feeder dropped a tasty pellet of tinned salmon. Pairs of cats were then put in long glass cages which had a feeder at one end and a switch to work it at the other. Each cat quickly realised that under these conditions pressing the switch brought no reward because the other cat—the non-switch-presser—always got to the fish-ball first.

Most pairs of cats soon solved this problem by friendly co-operation. They alternately worked the switch to feed each other. But this happy state of affairs did not endure. One of the cats ultimately turned spiv, refusing to do its turn of work. The worker then went on strike until hunger forced it to think out a solution to the stalemate. It then discovered that by rapidly operating the switch eight or nine times and then racing to the feeder it could get there before the spiv cat had time to gobble up all the fish-balls.

This arrangement meant a lot of hard work for little reward, but eventually both overfed spiv and half-starved worker accepted the set-up as a permanent arrangement.

It was always the socially-conscious cat which figured out this answer to the hunger problem. The spiv, which was content to lead a leisured life lolling by the feeder, would seemingly have starved to death rather than do its fair share of switch pressing.

Of 14 pairs of cats tested, two solved the problem of communal life in the glass cage by a stroke of genius. They found that by wedging the switch into a corner of the cage they could make the feeder function continuously, to provide a rich feast without further effort on their part!

The experiments were carried out by a team of American psychologists and doctors led by Professor Jules Masserman. They showed that, as with humans, some cats are far brighter than others.

Miss Olivia de Havilland, winner of the Oscar award as the Best Motion Picture actress of 1949, is a cat owner as well as being a cat lover. The award was given for her acting ability in the film "The Heiress," in which she appeared with one of her pets.

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Beckenham 6904

To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

My Broadcast.

I wonder how many of you heard the broadcast on ants in the schools' programme on 3rd May? If you did, you heard Uncle Peter talking to you. As you were told, this was a recording because I had to go up to the studio to make the record during the holidays. If any of you want to know more about these interesting little creatures I will do my best to answer your questions if you write to me.

Laddie in Trouble

Laddie has been a very unhappy little dog for some days and all because he is so inquisitive. Just before Easter he went on holiday with me to Perranporth in Cornwall. Every day we used to go for a walk along the sands and we always saw some dead seabirds washed up by the tide. Of course, Laddie found these interesting, but I told him to leave them alone. Sometimes he did, but at others when I was not looking he went back to pick one up and give it a good shake. And then the trouble started. Laddie just could not stop scratching. I brushed and combed him and then I saw the cause of the trouble. He was absolutely covered with little insects and it took days of combing and putting on insect powder before they disappeared. Yes, they had come from the seabirds and I hope that Laddie has learned his lesson.

Sheena and Helga

As you know, I like my cats to have as much freedom as possible and I keep them shut up as little as possible. Apparently both Sheena and Helga decided that they wanted families, so off they went to find husbands for themselves. Before long both of them will be producing kittens so I may have some to offer you a little later on. I suspect the father was a white cat because I've seen him prowling round the garden as though he owned the place. What the kittens will look like I just couldn't guess, but I will tell you all about them when they arrive.

If your cat ever has kittens when you don't really want them, do let her keep at least two. It is cruel to take them all away.

Budgerigars

I have had two letters lately from children asking me about the keeping and breeding of budgies.

Budgies are very easy to breed, particularly in an outside aviary, and they can also be bred in the house if you have a large enough cage. The trouble is that they are sometimes disturbed if they have too many people round them, and when that happens they often break their eggs or refuse to feed their young. Always keep them in the garden if you can.

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 .**

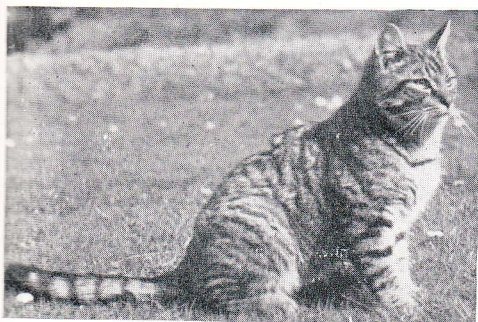
Mark Twain



A story of a remarkable coincidence attaches to this picture of handsome MR. BONES, who lives in Australia. When Mrs. Una Bone left England to make her home at Benalla, Victoria, who should be waiting to welcome her but Mr. Bones, who belonged to and was named by the previous occupiers of the house ! Mr. Bones was soon adopted by Mrs. Bones.



Rachel Whitmire



CRISPIN, neutered brown Tabby male, is the pet of Mrs. K. L. Regan, of Cooden, Sussex. In a recent cat photographic competition at Bexhill, Crispin won Best Short-hair and Best Male in Show.

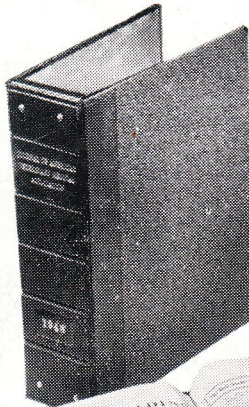
From the well-known American Fanciers Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Johnson, of Atlanta, comes this picture of SPERO'S RAGAMUFFIN, seven weeks old Tortoiseshell, bred by Mrs. H. G. Cobb, of New York. "Muffin" is bred along the best lines and Mrs. Johnson writes : "She is now six months old and developing even beyond our hopes and expectations. Her colours are marvellously brilliant and well defined. Her black is like liquorice, her cream like on a milk bottle and her red is dark and vivid. We look for a good future for her, both in the show world and in breeding."



Enjoying herself up the cherry tree is ELSERN HO NAN (named José), who belongs to Mr. James H. Steele, of Chislehurst, Kent. Her grandparents on her mother's side were sired by Zy Azure Phandah.

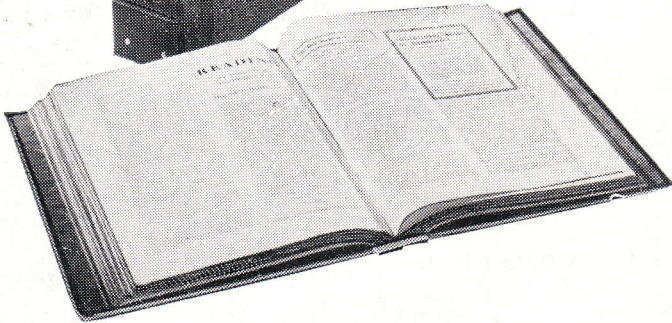
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SPECIAL OFFER! We have available 50 **ONLY** complete sets of the 1949 issues of **OUR CATS Magazine**. These will be supplied to the first enquirers complete with **EASIBINDER** at the reduced inclusive rate of 25/- per set, post free. These complete units will make acceptable gifts for cat-loving friends.