

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



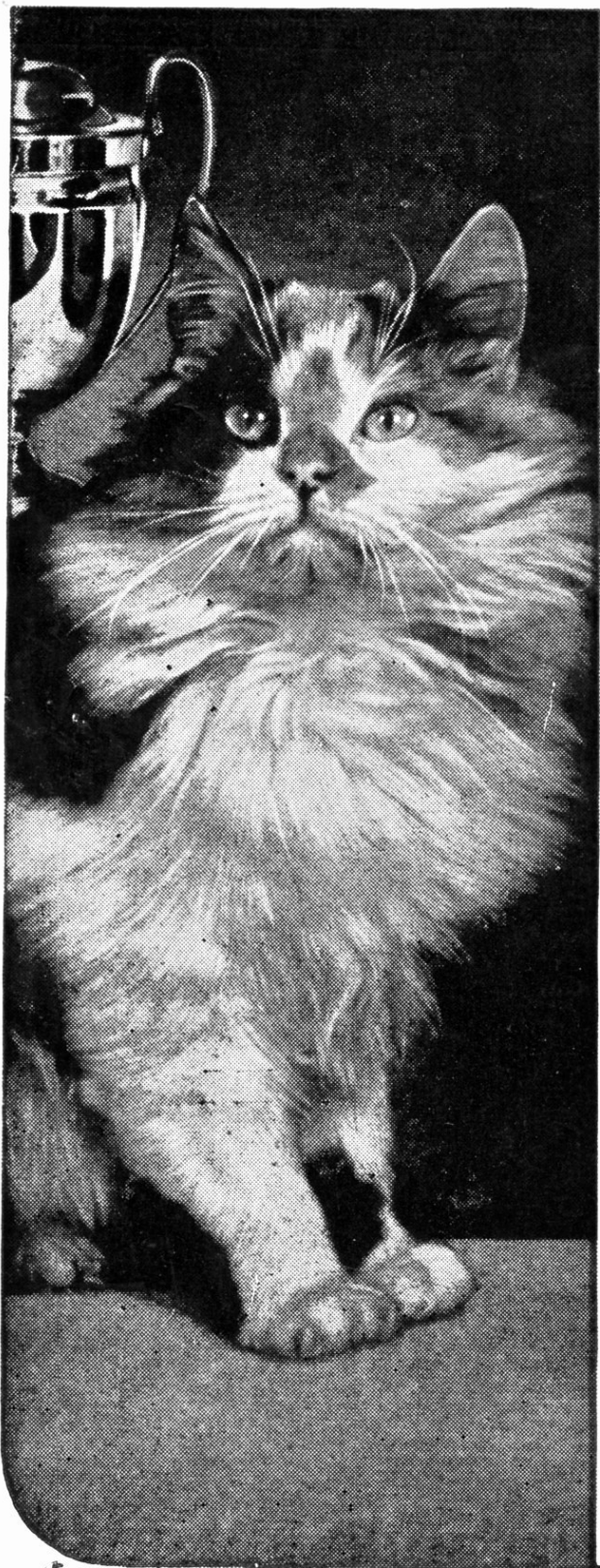
DECEMBER 1951

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*... here's wishing you all
"the top of the milk"
at Xmas and during 1952*

Another lovely cat who loves

KIT-E-KAT 'the complete cat food'



Hendon Snow Maiden, winner of 23 First Awards and a Challenge Certificate at 11 months old, has been fed for perfect health on Kit-E-Kat.

Mrs. P. E. Chapman of Bridgeway Cattery, Whitton, Middlesex, who owns "Snowey", says, "Feeding cats to-day is a real problem. The handy tin of Kit-E-Kat makes it easy and economical, and I know my cats are getting a complete food that gives them every scrap of the nourishment they need".

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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. 3 No. 12

DECEMBER 1951

Managing Editor :

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

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

BACKWARDS — AND FORWARD !

WITH this issue OUR CATS completes its third year, which is quite a milestone in the journeyings of a new periodical.

Looking back over the years—how quickly they have passed!—I recall how in the autumn of 1948 I was busy working out what I liked to refer to as my Three Year Plan for the Magazine. It was my belief that three years would be necessary to ensure its acceptance and establishment and at the end of that time I would know for sure whether or not it had found a niche for itself. Well, the Plan has worked itself out and here I am looking forward to “ a bigger and better ” programme for 1952 and onwards. This last statement will surely answer a whole lot of questions and save a heap of talking!

I do not pretend for a moment that everything has worked out according to plan. It hasn't. Things could have been very much better. For instance, I had hoped by now to have several development schemes in operation ; some new ideas working. Instead, I have had to forego them in order to concentrate on making ends meet as the economic conditions worsened year by year. The ever-rising costs of production continue to threaten publishers of small specialist magazines. A few have died through sheer exhaustion in chasing the spiral and many more have been compelled either to cut down on size or increase their selling price. Within the past few weeks you have seen two of our contemporaries affected in this way.

That OUR CATS has been able to continue on an even keel through these difficult years is due, I think, to a number of factors. First, we


have so many loyal and enthusiastic readers who are not content to be merely readers. These good people have gone out of their way to help in other directions—by roping in new subscribers and recommending the Magazine to others, by sending news items, photographs, letters for publication and by making use of our advertisement columns. Their enthusiastic co-operation, for which I am extremely grateful, has proved invaluable.

Then I must not omit to mention my little band of regular contributors. Their zeal and loyalty have never failed to be a spur and incentive. My postbag tells me how highly their work is rated by cat lovers all over the world. And it would be grossly unfair if I failed to acknowledge the splendid service given uncomplainingly by our patient and long-suffering printers!

So, you see, our very existence has depended to a large extent on team-work. Progress in the months ahead can only be made if there is a continuance of this spirit of co-operation. May I thank you all—in anticipation?

EDITOR

This month's front cover photograph was taken by P. W. Lang, of Sevenoaks.

 **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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Let's go to a Show

We urge readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers

	Promoted by	Venue
1951		
15 December	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
1952		
11 January	*Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club	Derby
28 January	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
9 February	Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	Manchester

* Denotes Show with Championship status.

Meet Bo'sun - World Voyager

We present the first instalment of an adventure story that is different



Bo'sun looks out through the porthole of the "Mary Hillier" in Cowes Harbour.

INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR : Because the three characters involved happen to be very good friends of mine, it gives me special pleasure to be able to introduce this unusual but true adventure story of the sea. About two years ago, I frequently listened to George Blackburn and Dee, his American-born wife, as they told me of their plans to "get away from it all" and go "a-sailing round the world." I'll be coming to Bo'sun, the third member of the crew, a little later on.

I was aware of the Blackburns' great love of the sea ; how it claimed them at holiday times and whenever they could spare the time at week-ends. George Blackburn, with several generations of sailing blood in his veins, knew better than most what he wanted to do and what the plan entailed. During the war, when he commanded a destroyer, he won distinction by bringing his ship safely stern first into Yarmouth harbour after she had been mined in the North Sea. At the first opportunity after the war he got back to his real love—sailing. He searched diligently for the dream ship he had in mind for the long and adventurous voyaging. Obviously he needed a stout ship and one that could be handled by a crew of two. He found her eventually—the sturdily built 30 ft. S.Y. "Mary Hillier," which had seen service as a pilot cutter in Norwegian waters.

Then followed many weeks of preparation. There was much to do ; so much, in fact, that the original plan to "up anchor" in September last year had to be shelved for twelve months.

It was during this period of preparation that I had a hand in signing on the third member of the crew of the "Mary Hillier." Dee Blackburn, a great cat lover who had always been interested in my own two neutered Siamese pets, asked me to find her a kitten to share their life on board. I indicated a possible source of supply and several weeks later there came the news that Bo'sun had signed on and that, as far as the Blackburns were concerned, he was already in command of the ship !

Late this summer, just before the Blackburns set out on the first leg of their journey, I joined the "Mary Hillier" for a week-end sail off the South Coast. And, of course, I made the acquaintance of Bo'sun. I found him to be a Siamese of exceptional character who simply revelled in life at sea. He had even developed a definite nautical roll ! Registered Holmesdale Bo'sun, with Hillcross and Prestwick lines in his pedigree, he is also a cat of quality with a lovely pale coat and eye colour which seemed at times to be accentuated by the surrounding sea and sky.

Through the next few issues we shall follow the fortunes of Bo'sun on board the "Mary Hillier." Here, the first instalment, written exclusively for readers of this Magazine by Dee Blackburn, tells of Bo'sun's early days as a member of the crew. The little yacht is now far away from these shores. She has looked in

at French, Spanish and Portuguese ports on her way to Funchal, Madeira. She took four days to cross the turbulent waters of the Bay of Biscay. Later, she will sail to the Azores and from there take advantage of the favourable trade winds to cross the Atlantic. I feel sure you will be interested to share the adventures of Bo'sun as they are revealed by Dee Blackburn in our pages.

BO'SUN joined our ship in July last year when he was six weeks old. He was a gift from my husband, who had promised me a Siamese cat when we went aboard our yacht to live in preparation for our "round the world" cruise. That we intended to set sail a year ago is another story! However, in many respects our enforced delay was really a blessing in disguise, because when we took our departure from England on 31st August last on the first leg of our adventure, we were better prepared in every way than we would have been a year ago.

But to go back to Bo'sun's introduction to the ship. When we took him from his travelling basket (kindly loaned by Mrs. Gunn, from whom we bought him) he stepped sedately into the cockpit, raised his superior nose and had a good sniff at the salt air, then retired below. A seasoned old salt couldn't have given a better demonstration of "smelling the weather" and, finding it not to his liking, turning in.

We were lying at Ramsgate when Bo'sun first arrived—and at a very rainy period. Finding dry sand for his box became a problem. As the rain continued, I was reduced to digging the sand damp and then "cooking" it on the stove until it was dry. I was rather pleased at my ingenuity, but soon discovered that it was going to occupy far more time than I had to spare. The soft, warm sand held a sort of charm, for no sooner had I put in a fresh supply than he'd proceed to unfreshen it!

We finally decided that newspapers were the answer to the toilet problem—particularly in view of the fact that oftentimes our course would keep us

at sea for days at a time and clean sand would, of course, be out of the question. Bo'sun registered no disapproval at the change-over, but during the training period he considered newspaper in any part of the ship his private property. We soon broke him of this habit by the simple method of keeping papers in their proper places. As we couldn't possibly read as many papers as were required, we prevailed upon our friends to save theirs for us, and the collections became known as "Bo'sun's Reading Matter." I might add that through the generosity of our many friends we have enough newspapers aboard now to keep a regiment of cats happy for several months.

As we were told Siamese cats dislike being left alone, from the very start we trained Bo'sun to accompany us ashore on a lead whenever we left the ship for any period. In Ramsgate we were made honorary members of a social club and each time we visited it Bo'sun came too; in fact, he became very social-minded. He likes people and has won many friends. When we would go ashore with him dressed up with his blue bow which matched his sapphire eyes, we'd have a procession of people following us and watching his antics with obvious admiration. In spite of his royal birth, however, Bo'sun's musical education has been sadly neglected. He doesn't like music in any form, and makes the fact quite evident, as we discovered one night when we took him to a concert and had to leave rather hurriedly. His accompaniment to the symphonic rendering was hardly what one would call sympathetic or appreciative. This discovery was to stand me in good stead at a later date.

Being a curious little imp, he always

insists upon supervising any painting or varnishing being done aboard, and the supervision usually results in little paw marks of fresh paint on many parts of the ship where paint just wasn't the order of the day. Furthermore, it was a case of "downing brushes" to clean off his paws, which was always a considerable operation. Now when I'm engaged in manual labour of a similar kind, I keep up a constant musical tune which never

life? I held him in my arms for a little while. Soon his ears perked up and he took a stroll around the deck, obviously quite recovered. Never since that day has he been ill at sea, and we have had wind and weather enough to test the stoutest of sailors.

When he first joined ship I made him a comfy little bed in the warmest part of the boat. George and I share a double bunk in the main cabin. The first night Bo'sun slept in his own



Bo'sun goes ashore in the dinghy with George and Dee Blackburn. He always enjoyed these outings and never needed any persuasion to "get aboard."

fails to send Bo'sun just as far away as he can get.

From Ramsgate we set sail for Great Yarmouth to say "good-bye" to George's family, and this was Bo'sun's first experience in going to sea. When the sails were set and we were gliding along with a fair wind at a rapid rate of knots, he came up on deck and took his usual sniff at the weather. Suddenly he looked at me with a most alarming expression, and as suddenly was seasick. My heart fell. Was he not going to take to the

bed. The next night I discovered him tucked nicely in the middle of my back, and the next night comfortably ensconced in the crook of my arm with his head alongside mine on the pillow. From then on, that is where he sleeps. No amount of coaxing or training could change his mind. He was very foxy! Early in the evening he'd retire to his own bed, and it was only after we had gone to sleep that he'd move in with us. Eventually I gave up trying to keep him where I thought he should be.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 19



A book of photographs by Ylla and all about CATS! It had to come sooner or later and the publishers are to be congratulated on their acumen in having it ready at this seasonal period of the year. It is the perfect gift book for cat lovers. The 72 generous pages of photographs, even the dust jacket and end papers, are delightful. It is obvious as you turn each page that Ylla has found cats to be perfect material for the expression of her outstanding skill as an animal photographer. Some selections from a number of high speed snaps which adorn the book are reproduced above. If you wish to know more you are advised to turn to the announcement on page 16 of this issue.

On our way to Great Yarmouth from Ramsgate we moored for a week at Lowestoft. Bo'sun and I made a daily round of the fishing boats as they came into port, ostensibly to see the ships, but actually because many of the fishermen would speak to Bo'sun and as a result we would receive lovely fresh fish from their catch. The fare, of course, was supposed to be for Bo'sun, but no cat could possibly consume the quantities that were offered. As a result, George and I enjoyed many delightful meals!

Bo'sun has many charming ways and his cute tricks have been a constant source of amusement to us since we acquired him. But, like a child, he has his moments of naughtiness. One of his pranks is thieving—not because he cares for the things he steals, but every once in a while he feels the necessity of being mischievous. He never fails to tear the crust off bread if he finds a loaf unattended.

More Pranks

One morning he went on the prowl just as day was breaking. When he came back to bed he smelled "fishy." I asked him what he had been up to and his reply was an old-fashioned look. Later in the morning we found our kippers lain end to end on the cabin floor. None of them had been eaten—just nicely lined up. Another morning we saw him playing football with a small object which turned out to be our week's meat ration.

In preparation for our sail to Great Yarmouth I made a batch of Cornish pasties and partially cooked them to be popped into the oven and browned while we were at sea. There were about a dozen, and, never dreaming that Bo'sun would be interested in partly cooked dough, I placed them at the back of the galley. Next time I saw them each had a little hole bored in the centre and the insides scooped out!

From Yarmouth we set sail for Cowes, but wind and weather were so

foul that it took us about six weeks to get there instead of a couple of days. Not that we were sailing all that time, of course, but it was necessary to make for harbour several times *en route* because of severe gales. As a result Bo'sun has become quite a well-known character in many of the little ports of call. He's always included in invitations to visit other ships or when we pay a call to homes on land. When entering or leaving a harbour there is always a bit of order shouting or the hailing of friends. When the noise starts Bo'sun is always prominent and joins in the chorus, much to everybody's amusement.

Winter Woollies

We finally arrived at Cowes in late September, expecting to be there for a matter of weeks, but our visit lasted almost a year. We had hoped to spend the winter in the West Indies, and when I discovered we were to stay in England I was concerned for Bo'sun and wondered how living aboard a ship during the winter months would react on him. In preparation for the ordeal I knitted him a little skipper's sweater with a roll neck and embroidered "Bo'sun" across the front. When he went out in really cold weather he didn't object to it at all. I also bought him a little blanket and embroidered his name across the corner, and he found this quite a cosy addition to his wardrobe when he stayed aboard alone at night (which wasn't often). We also bought him a blue hot water bottle in the shape of a dog which he would sit and wait for when he knew he wasn't going out with us for the evening. Before we acquired a rug for the cabin I was more or less concerned about Bo'sun's feet on the cold floor, as oftentimes I thought they felt too cold. To overcome the possibility of rheumatism I knitted him four little booties, but he would have nothing to do with these and kicked them off immediately they were tried on. I need not have wor-

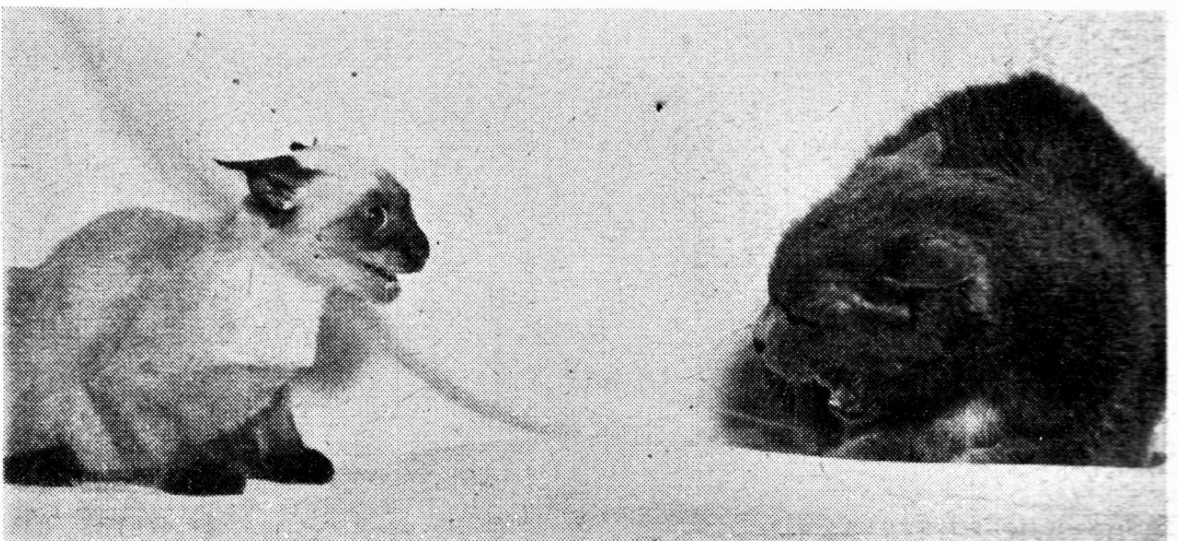
ried. Cold weather didn't bother him in the least.

During part of the time at Cowes we were moored alongside a quay in a shipyard. As we were well away from any main roads and traffic, Bo'sun was allowed out on his own, and he was most obedient, coming back immediately when called. One day I saw him slinking along the quay and he completely ignored me. This was most unusual as he always holds a protracted conversation when addressed. Soon I discovered the reason for his lack of interest. He was transporting what looked to me like a rat—and heading in the direction of the ship. I followed him and found he had deposited the offending rodent in the cockpit. I was terrified! All sorts of fears entered my head as to the dangers of Bo'sun playing with rats. George assured me, however, that the animal was not a rat, but a water vole and not so subject to disease and germs. Nevertheless, I didn't care for this kind of playmate.

With regard to dogs, our little minx is quite unpredictable. At one time, without so much as by your

leave, he'll walk up to a dog and kiss him on the nose. Another time he'll put his back up and emit the most ferocious sounds. We never know just how he is going to react. However, he makes more friends than foes—and, strangely enough, always with dogs, which we are told are terrors as far as cats are concerned. His dislike for dogs seems, in the main, to be concentrated on the more kindly, better-natured animals, but this is not always so. One instance, in particular, was at Cowes, when a spritely little dog named Skipper was within a few feet of our yacht. His owner cautioned us to be careful of Bo'sun as Skipper was a "cat hater." We naturally kept a weather eye on our little fellow. However, Bo'sun apparently took a liking to Skipper, and when our caution was relaxed we discovered him and Skipper prancing about on the quay having a wonderful game of tag. Needless to say, the owner was amazed and said he had never seen the dog friendly towards a cat.

(To be continued)



Associated Press

A display of temperament by Mrs. Walter Sherrer's Blue Shorthair and a much younger exhibit, Mrs. H. G. Stackhouse's four months old Seal Point Daphne.

The argument took place at the Empire Cat Show in New York.

Red Pointed Siamese

By ALBERT C. JUDE

I HAVE read in an overseas pets magazine that some Red Pointed Siamese kittens have been exhibited in England. Although the writer says he has been told these can be produced in the second generation, his further remarks seemed to indicate some secrecy about Red Point breeding. Or is it that this form of breeding is different from normal colour inheritance procedure? Will you please give some information on the subject?

First of all, let me say there is nothing in colour inheritance, so far as I am aware, which could be called "out of the ordinary." The matters which govern the results of crossings are all in accordance with quite well-known facts which are common knowledge for any who may be sufficiently interested to gather the information. There are no secrets involved.

The results from crossings are in accordance with all of the different factors carried by the parents, and it is therefore fairly easy, when the genotype of the individual parents is known, to anticipate what the combination will produce. It is because of this that we are able to select suitable pairings for any desired result. In making the anticipation, dominance of one factor over another is important, for it is this which decides the ratio or number of expected coat colours or patterns of any one kind which will appear from an extended number of litters from the same selected mating. We must cover the situation by this statement because often the different combinations which a mating can produce far outnumber the kittens which could possibly be

born in any litter. And in any case the anticipated figures for the different possible colours or patterns can only be true over the period, just as it is only possible for us to say that, over all, the number of males and females born is equal.

Now consider the anticipation for a simple cross where only two colours are concerned—Black X Blue. We know that Black is dominant with Blue as the recessive. We know, too, that Blue mated with Blue can only produce Blue. But we cannot be sure offhand about the Black. Blacks phenotypically are all alike, just black; but, on the other hand, they can vary genotypically. For instance, some may be pure for blackness and others may carry a factor for blue. If our Black to be crossed with the Blue is pure for blackness, the mating will produce all Blacks in F_1 and three Blacks to one Blue in F_2 . But if our Black is already carrying blue factor, our cross will produce three Blacks and one Blue straight away. There are the anticipations for both colour and proportion of colours.

Now consider a Seal Point Siamese cross, this time also to Black. Here again we only have two factors, Black—for Seal Point Siamese are virtually Black cats—and the factor for inability to form full body colour, due to a restriction factor. So again we have two possibilities for F_2 , Blacks, and Blacks with restriction, or, put another way, Seal Point Siamese. And as restriction is recessive to full colour we are able to anticipate three Blacks to one Seal Point.

Again, if we mate Self Blue to Seal Point Siamese, we increase the possi-

bilities, for we have added another factor, giving us in all, Black, Blue, and Restriction. In point of fact, we actually have four factors, for we have two sorts of Black—Dominant Black and Recessive Black. This would give, strictly speaking, an extended list of anticipations like this: 24 Dominant Blacks, 12 Recessive Blacks, 8 Dilute Dominant Blacks, 8 Seals, 4 Blues, 4 Siamese Recessive Blacks, 3 Dilute Siamese Recessive Blacks, 1 Siamese Blue Point.

If this is boiled down we would have the following: 9 Blacks, 3 Blues, 3 Seal Points, 1 Blue Point, which shows 3 Blacks to 1 Blue, 3 Seal Points to 1 Blue Point, and 3 Full-colour to 1 Restriction.

First Pairings

But for our Red Points we have to make further considerations, for red (genetically "yellow") is sex-linked. This means that some different results will come about according to which colour is used for the male or the female partner. Further, we have a state of incomplete dominance to contend with between the two colours yellow and black.

When considering what mates to use for producing any particular required colour or pattern, we may have to start with two cats neither of which has the exhibited colours or pattern of the coat for which we are breeding. Or, if we are lucky, we may be able to use one mate which does exhibit the colours or pattern of that which we wish to establish. Obviously the former situation will possibly cause a generation of delay in reaching the desired end.

In breeding for Red Points we first have to consider what pairings to make. Naturally, in order to produce the Siamese pattern factor we must use one of the available colour breeds of Siamese, and, to produce Red, the Seal Point is the most suitable. Next we have to choose a most

suitable available colour mate to eventually establish Red Points. The obvious selection would be a Shorthair Red, but, unfortunately, none are available over here.

It so happens, as is already known, that when Red cats are mated to Blacks, Torties are produced, and if we mate Tortie to Black, further Torties can be expected. And seeing that Shorthair Torties are available and that they carry the red factor, the obvious cross will be Seal Point Siamese male to a Tortie. This brings together all the factors needed for Red Pointed Siamese and will produce some Tortie Pointed Siamese. Without going into the expectations as we have done earlier, these Tortie Pointed Siamese should be again mated to Seal Point males, which will produce some Red Pointed Siamese males and more Tortie Pointed Siamese females, later to be mated to the Red Pointed males to produce Red Pointed Siamese females.

The possibility is always that the colour of the points may at first be pale, especially the feet and legs. In course of time increase of colour will come about by the selective interbreeding of the Red Points. The increase of colour can only be expected to come about gradually, but the method stated is certainly the surest in the long run.

FOOTNOTE. — Since writing the above, I have received word from Mrs. A. De Filippo, of U.S.A., that she will be showing a pair of her Red Pointed Siamese for the first time this autumn at Indiana. Mrs. Filippo has been interested in Red Point breeding since 1946, and has kindly promised to write her experiences shortly for OUR CATS. I understand that the Red Points to be exhibited are of very good type, with almond-shaped eyes of deep blue colour. This first pair to be shown by Mrs. Filippo are about seven months old.

Orangey Murray - "Tough Guy"!

By LISA GORDON SMITH

THE latest star ascendant in the film firmament is the Shorthair cat Orangey Murray, who plays the title rôle in Paramount's new comedy, "Rhubarb." That Mr. Murray is "supported" by two actors of such magnitude as Ray Milland and Jan Sterling is an indication of the high esteem in which the Paramount casting directors hold him.

Or is it? From what I can gather about Mr. Murray, they

may have been terrorised into giving him "star billing," for I can well believe that Orangey played cat and mouse with them and their rules and regulations!

This new star's personality and home life must be of interest to all his fans, and it is possible to infer a great deal about Mr. Murray's character from his performance and life history; but, from what I can gather, he does not have much home life!

Paramount's London represen-



Ray Milland and Jan Sterling with Orangey Murray are the three bright stars in the Paramount picture "Rhubarb."

tative assures me that Orangey is "a tough, rambunctious tom-cat." He looks it!

On the subject of his early life Orangey is reticent, but he growls assent to the assumption that he was probably born in San Fernando Valley, California. All that is positively known dates from the time when a reliable witness, Mrs. Agnes Murray, became acquainted with him and provided testimony which Orangey dare not deny.

In 1948, a dishevelled Orangey arrived in the Murray back garden, hungry, sick, and wounded in the leg from one of his many battles. Mrs. Murray, ignoring those of his remarks which were unfit for a lady's ears, fed him and nursed him back to rip-roaring health and his present weight of 18 lbs. Orangey accepted food, medicine and the family name as his due and decided against leaving when his cure was complete. Not that he showed gratitude by any of your hearth-rug tabby's purrings and ankle-massage. Orangey is a red-head with a temper to match, and his repayment was to snarl at everyone and to bite visitors.

Never Afraid

Paramount's nation-wide hunt for a star for "Rhubarb" landed them with Orangey to portray the cat whose bad manners and habit of stealing golf balls was rewarded by being left thirty million dollars—and a baseball team—in the will of an eccentric millionaire.

In the film, the fun waxes fast and furious. In the studio, it was just furious.

We, who have been brought up to believe that warm-coated little pussies will "do us no harm" if we are kind to them, are glad to

know that the studio arrangements for Orangey included the daily presence of a vet. and a representative of the S.P.C.A. Ray Milland, however, was heard to say that these arrangements should have been augmented by a doctor and full ambulance squad for the protection and treatment of humans. This film has used up more medical supplies than the Dr. Kildare series. Orangey's fisticuffs are not inspired by fear. He is never afraid—he is just plain *cross*!

Orangey's contract includes the provision of "fresh milk, warm or cold, at studio cost and expense, whenever requested." For his part, he had to agree "at all times during employment to conduct himself with due regard for public conventions and morals" and "to remain unmarried during production of film." But, like all good films, this one has a happy ending, and Rhubarb acquires three wives and a host of kittens!

As for "conventions and morality," I understand that this film is unlikely to be banned, owing to the Censor's ignorance of cat language.

All the same, it is not recommended for kittens!



We present on the opposite page another of the delightful drawings by Louis Wain. This one has quite a seasonal flavour! Many of our readers will be interested to know that Louis Wain was President of the National Cat Club. In 1908 he judged at an American show and so was, we believe, the first ambassador of the English Cat Fancy to cross the Atlantic on a goodwill mission.



CHAMPION ROOFSPRINGER MELISANDE

has won over 20 Prizes — including 12 Firsts — since her first public appearance, aged 4 months, at the Herts. and Middx. Ch. Show in 1950. Her Challenge Certificates were won at The Festival of Britain Ch. Show in July. Sandy Ch. Show in August. Herts. and Middx. Ch. Show in September.

MISS E. VON ULLMANN,
of 25 Rudall Crescent,
Hampstead, London, N.W. 3,
well-known breeder and owner of
the Roofspringer prefix, writes :

“It is some time since I meant to write to you and express my appreciation of your Kit-zyme Tablets.

I am a breeder of Black Short-hair and British Blue and Siamese cats and I find your tablets a wonderful tonic for all these breeds. Actually, before Kit-zyme was on the market I used to give the cats your ‘human’ brand of yeast tablets, which I took myself, and I obtained good results. Indeed, one of my Siamese used to steal them, which made me think they contained ‘something’ which instinct taught her to be necessary for her constitution.

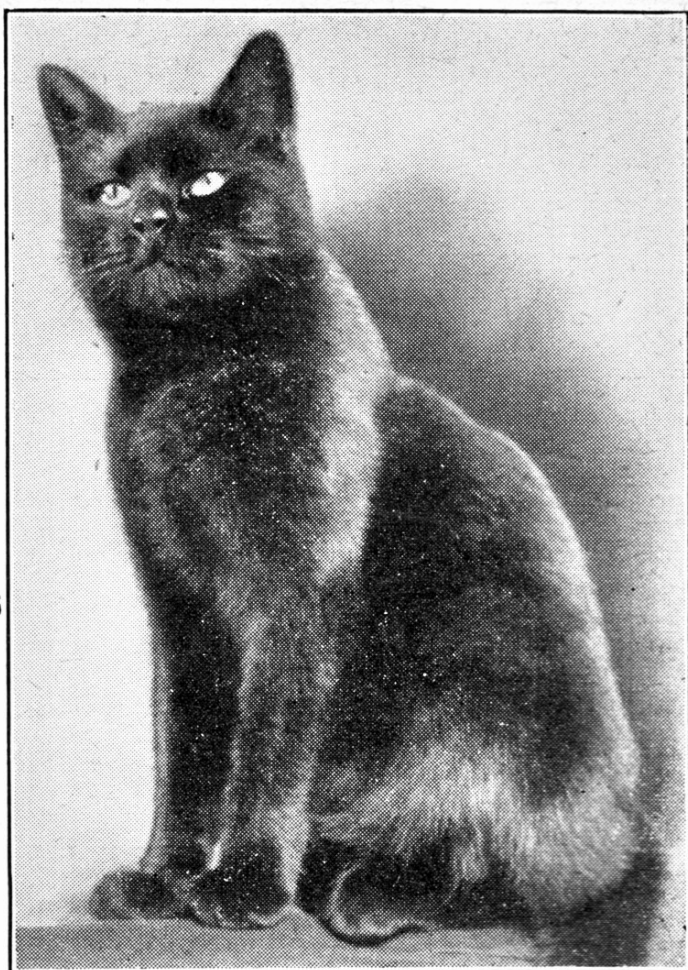
I was, therefore, delighted when you brought out a yeast tablet specially for cats and I have used Kit-zyme regularly ever since it came on the market.

I am sure it is responsible for the excellent condition on which all judges remark whenever I show a cat.

My Black S.H. Champion Roofspringer Melisande has had Kit-zyme ever since she was a baby. Her kittens, too, started on them as soon as they could eat and, though a litter of five, are all strong and big for their age. One of them, Antonia, is already following in her mother’s footsteps, having won three Firsts and a Special for Best British S.H. Kitten at the Herts. and Middx. Show this year.

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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.

FRIEND OF THE HOMELESS

Do you mind if I ask you to give us more about the humble cats like Ginger the Ratter and the stray kitten with the rook? We admire the show cats but—our hearts are for the unwanted.

We have *only* 16 at present, but luckily have two grand cat-loving amahs who do not mind what time they spend cooking fish and caring for the many strays I bring home. If they are too far gone, they are humanely put to sleep with the kind help of the Government vets. or the now functioning S.P.C.A.. In addition, I feed about 10 each evening, a duty I am only too glad to do when I come home each evening from the office.

Miss Doris Woods,
Kowloon, Hong Kong.

WRONG FEEDING

I believe most eczemas and cases of dermatitis are caused by a wrong diet. Biscuit meal seems to cause it with some cats, or too much fish, also lack of vitamin B, which can be given in the form of Kitzymes or Bemax.

I have also had a kitten die in the manner described by Mrs. Druce in last month's issue. My kitten was exactly a month old; the other two are all right, though one is rather small. The mother seemed to lose interest in them when the kitten died, so I had to wean the survivors. The mother has gradually gone back to them but does not appear to have much milk.

Mrs. B. Hewlett,
Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

CHOCOLATE SIAMESE

In your May issue, Mr. P. M. Soderberg raises a question about which I have been wondering for some time. It is: Is the Chocolate Point that we know connected in any way with the Chocolate Siamese referred to in books of thirty, forty or fifty years ago?

It is interesting to find that a cat listed as a Chocolate Siamese in the third volume of the G.C.C.F. Stud Book and owned by Major Woodiwiss, was related to the pair this gentleman exported to Australia in about 1925. These were Ch. Woodroofe Adam and Wing of Woodroofe, who were both shown during 1924 and 1925 at the M.C.C.C. and S.C.C.C. shows.

One of the next pair to be imported into this country was also related to this Chocolate, whose sire, by the way, was known as Chocolate Cream. Descendants of these four cats have been inbred from then to now in one cattery and apparently the factor has not cropped up.

Twenty-five years later five Chocolate Points have made their appearance in Australia, three in Melbourne and two in my cattery in N.S.W. The sire or grandsire in all cases was the late Timoshenko, whose two imported parents came from England some years later, and whose forebears included Miss Busted's Litabois as well as Jimbois. In our Chocolate Points' pedigrees many lines trace back to Ch. Bonzo or his brother Manchu, and it would be very interesting to know if these are the lines carrying the C.P. factor.

I have read in American publications that the Chocolate in England in

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past years was "much darker than the seal point; its head was rounder, and the points were almost sable in their density." That does not sound like our Chocolate Point! In a very old English book on cats the author stated that the Chocolate Siamese was an all over chocolate colour and specimens with orange eyes brought good luck and were much prized!

I do not think that our Chocolate Point of to-day, with his lovely ivory coat, could be confused with those described. Some breeder blessed with a photographic memory may be able to recall the cats of the years around 1925, when a number were shown. Can anyone remember cats shown by Sister Stockley, Miss Croucher, Mrs. Thomal or Major Woodiwiss about that time?

Miss G. M. Williams,
Hazelbrook, Blue Mountains, N.S.W.,
Australia.

"DISCARDED" GREYHOUNDS

Reading through an old copy of your Magazine—April last year—which I had missed, I read with great interest about the training of retired racing greyhounds. What a splendid idea this is! One hears of the misery and cruelty some of these poor racing dogs have to put up with; in many cases they are just sent to be slaughtered when they can race no longer. I feel quite sick at some of the stories told me of the unlicensed racing tracks.

At the end of the war one of these poor dogs wandered into a Canadian camp a few weeks before it was closed. He was a magnificent creature but wild and frightened. The Commanding Officer brought him to me and asked if I could give him a home. For two months I had such trouble with him, dirtying, thieving food and trying to kill my grey cat if Simon ran into the room.

Then gradually he realised there was a world beyond pain and hunger and ill-treatment. A black cat we

had befriended gave him a vicious scratch on his nose one day and for ever after he left cats alone. All but *grey ones*—and squirrels! I had him five years and the vet. reckoned he was about 12 or 13 when we had to have him put to sleep early this year as he developed kidney trouble. It was the kindest thing to do after a week's desperate illness.

After that first two months he became the most gentle, loving and obedient dog. He was also a marvellous guard dog. My experience goes to show that these poor greyhounds, if given a chance, make lovely pets. It is man who brutalises them.

Miss E. T. Greenyer,
Bolney, Sussex.

HELP WANTED

May I venture to ask for advice with regard to chronic diarrhoea that is affecting my two cats, two lovely Blue Persians of excellent pedigree. One is an adult neutered male aged 1 year 5 months, who has previously suffered from simple gastritis. The other, a female kitten, aged 4½ months. It is now seven weeks since they went down with the illness and I am despairing of them ever getting better. I have had the vet. and he has diagnosed their trouble as coli-enteritis. Despite continued treatment (almost daily visits from the vet.), it is very evident that the trouble still persists. Truth is, I cannot afford these visits indefinitely and would now seek the help of your readers. Does anyone know of a cure for coli-enteritis?

(The writer here gives a list of the various treatments she has applied. Latest treatment is the administration of Enterofagos.)

Both cats have considerable inflammation of the anus and are of general unhappy appearance. The adult is especially wretched. Both their stomachs are very soft and swollen.

How can I check their diarrhoea? What should their diet consist of?

What foods should be avoided? Regarding the administration of brandy to a sick cat, what dosage do you advise? This for future reference.

Mrs. A. J. Millner,
Coventry.

It is worthy of comment that Mrs. Millner, after I had advised her to persevere with Enterofagos, wrote to the makers to say it had effected a complete cure in a very short space of time. I am, of course, delighted to be able to report such a happy sequel.—
Editor.

A CALL TO ACTION

I was very interested to read the letter by Lt.-Col. Graham Cherry, M.A., in your November issue, wherein he says that the Animal Health Trust is anxious to begin investigation into feline infectious enteritis and other obscure ailments.

In Mrs. Williams's very excellent book I read that £700 to £1,000 per year must be guaranteed to enable this vital and URGENT work to be carried out. Are there not a thousand cat fanciers in the British Isles who would pledge £1 every year to the worthy aim of checking this scourge of the cat family? Any cat lover who has seen a beloved pet die from this cruel disease could never begrudge an annual subscription to enable research into the virus which causes such a deplorably high mortality every year.

The sooner some scheme is launched to raise this sum, the sooner this valuable work can be commenced. Remember, fellow fanciers, disease does not wait! We must not.

Mrs. Phyl G. Jones,
Guernsey, Channel Islands.

About that letter you were going to send us. Why not sit down and write it NOW? Correspondence Corner is YOUR feature. Please help to keep it interesting and of value to other cat lovers.

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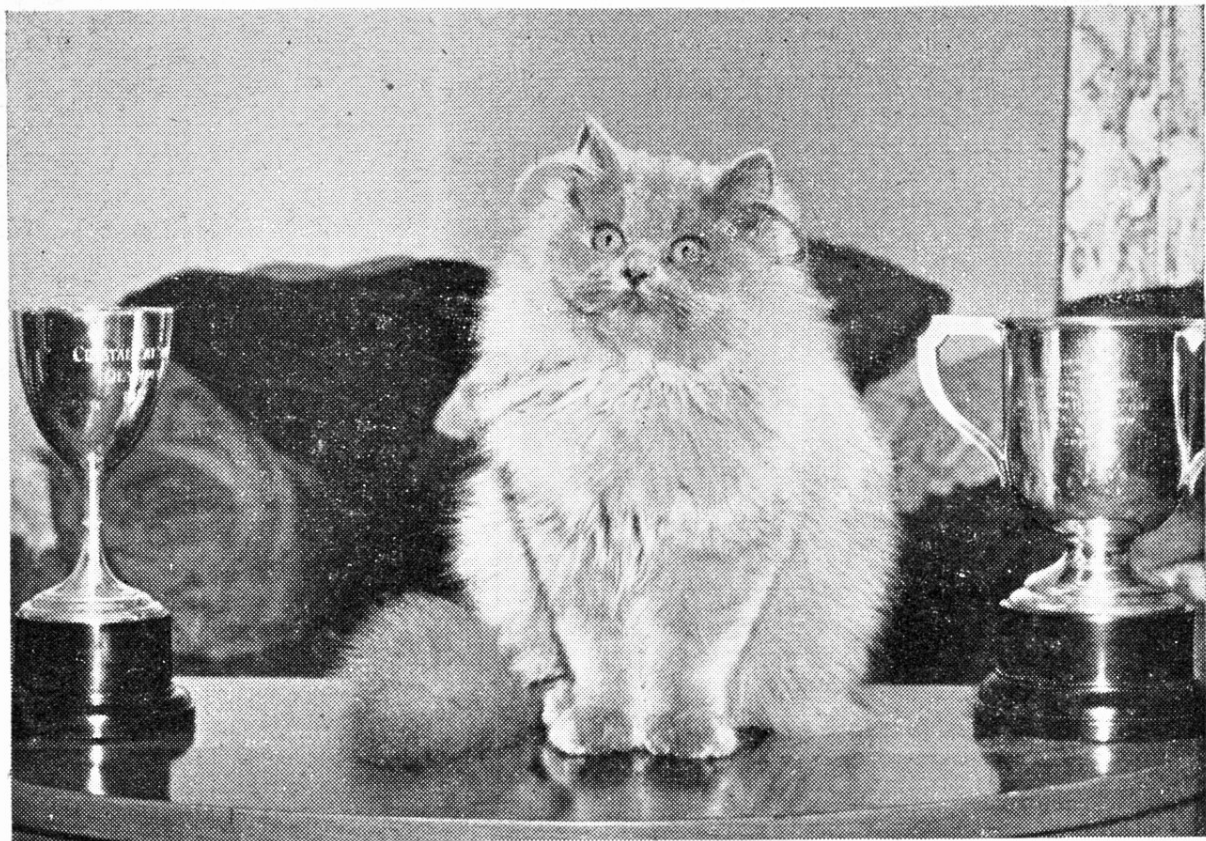
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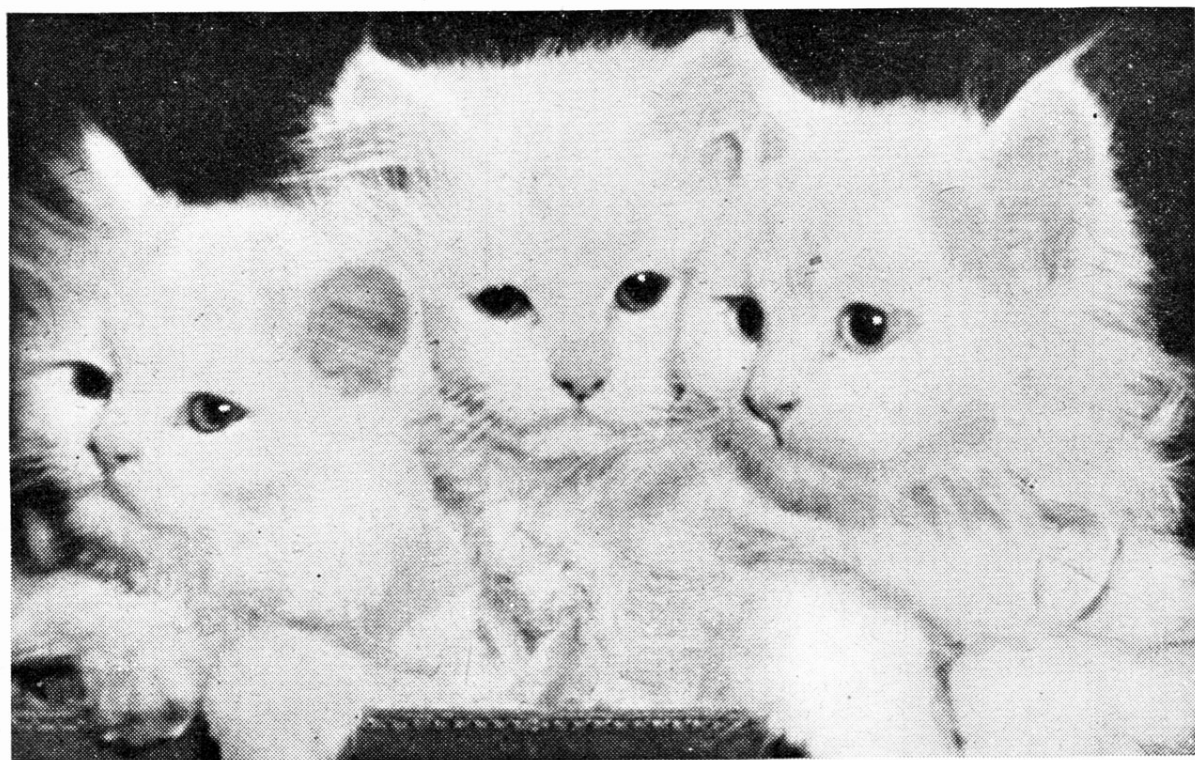
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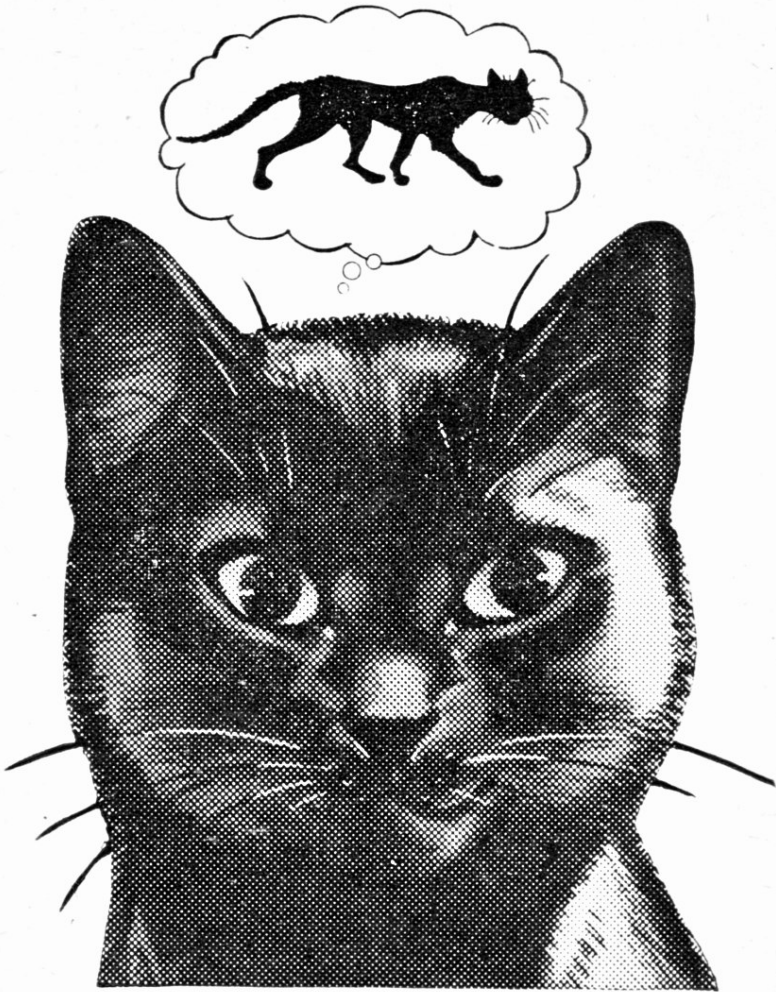
Take a look at these! Mrs. Denton's TRENTON SUGAR PLUM (sired by Champion Oxleys Peter John) makes a charming picture with the trophies she won at Olympia, where she was voted Best Longhair Kitten in Show.



Sport and General

What could be more Christmassy than this prize-winning litter exhibited at 10 weeks by Mrs. K. Carbert, enthusiastic York fancier?

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Mother Nature Knows Best

By P. M. SODERBERG

WHEN one writes a regular monthly article, it is like a gift from the gods when a ready-made subject is suggested. I am more than grateful to Mrs. Joan Thompson, who is certainly a friend of mine, that her notes provided me with my title for the month. Not only that, but I also received seventeen letters as a result of her reference to my modified views on the subject of mongrel litters. I was glad to receive these letters because they added further conviction to my present belief that monkeying about with Nature is something which should be avoided.

The story is a very simple one, well known to many breeders, for their experiences have been similar to my own.

For a number of years I had known the Longhaired cats and had always found that in the matter of breeding most females were far from precocious, and the general experience was that the Persians "called" at widely spaced intervals and usually gave adequate warning of their intentions.

Then the time came when I decided that I wanted to breed Siamese and I bought a female kitten for the purpose. This young lady was most attractive and I looked forward to the time when she would "call" because then I thought it would not be long before the first litter would arrive. Such were my hopes; but when Titi, the female in question, was about six months old I caught her misbehaving with a stray tom who had for several

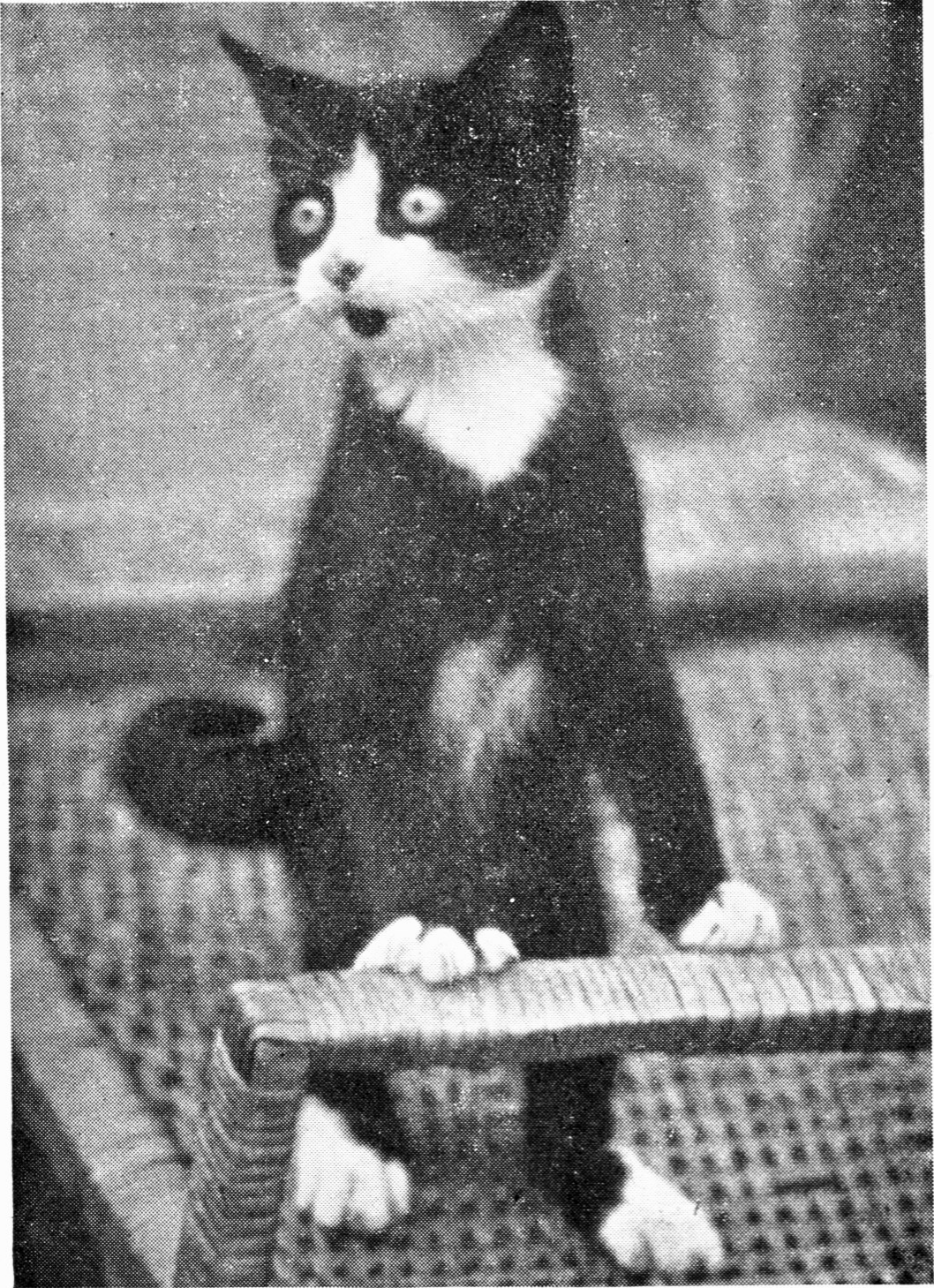
days been a constant visitor. Alas! I did not know what he knew.

That this should have happened was a blow to my pride and also a disappointment, for I realised that if this chance mating led to a family I should have to wait another six months before I could hope to see a real Siamese family.

I discussed the matter with my vet., who told me that there was a method by which an unwanted family could probably be avoided. He did not recommend or advise against such treatment and the decision was my own responsibility entirely. The result was that after an injection of stilboestrol there were no kittens. Now, mark you, there was no guarantee that there would have been a family in any case, although I have usually found that chance matings are more often than not successful.

I was very pleased at the result of this attempt to direct the course of Nature, and when Titi called for the second time I was ready for her, because the stray gentleman again warned me to take precautions and I took the hint. Titi went to a well-known stud owned by a breeder in whom I had, and still have, every confidence. Three visits had to be made before this queen was found to be in kitten, and from first to last the whole business had taken fourteen weeks. When this time was added to a nine-week period of gestation, I had not gained very much to solace my impatience.

Finally, when the family arrived, things went wrong and



WHAT WAS YOUR QUESTION, SIR ?

This amusing snap of Monty comes from reader Mrs. E. M. Doig, of Nairobi, Kenya Colony. Monty is at present living with friends in this country. In her accompanying letter Mrs. Doig presents quite a poser. She asks : " I wonder if any of your readers know of a method of training cats to be road conscious ? I have lost two cats through road accidents and should be most grateful for any suggestions."

the only way of saving Titi was a Caesarian section and a family of six were born dead. This Siamese was, however, a tough lady, and after four months she again went to the stud and required no second visit. Yet when the family was due things again went wrong, and it was only after skilled attention from the vet. that there were any live kittens. I then took the advice I was given and in due course Titi was spayed to remain a pet and no more.

Now to argue from these facts and to make a generalisation from them would be a folly of which not even I am capable. I must, however, confess that I did have certain misgivings, particularly as I had suggested to other breeders that it was not at all difficult to avoid mongrel litters. I had been so sure of myself that I had also sent another queen who had mated for the same injection, and again there had been no family.

Freedom Allowed

As soon as I had any doubts about the advice which I had given to others I wrote to them to relate my experiences and to ask for theirs. The results from this enquiry were not conclusive, but it certainly seemed probable that some of the queens might have been better breeders had the decision been made not to interfere with Nature. My mind was quite definitely made up, and since that time I have done nothing to avoid a mongrel litter when a queen has taken it into her head to find her own mate.

I am of the opinion that there is a strong argument for allowing a queen to have her first litter when she and Nature decide that the time is right. As I have said on many previous occasions, I like my queens to be normal, but I have long since realised that

individuality is far more common than the normality of cats which fit into a definite pattern. There is little that the breeder can do about this apart from holding his hand should the idea come into his head that he ought to try to alter things.

If no Siamese queen had a litter under ten months and her Persian sister resisted the temptation of becoming a matron until she was over a year, it might be a good thing ; but the fact is that few cats can be made to fit into such a pattern, and the time of the first litter in the case of a queen or the first mating of a stud can vary among individuals by as much as a year.

There is, I think, only one thing to do about this. It is to accept these individual differences as facts and not to try to alter what might be called the particular pattern of the animal.

In the case of a queen I am now prepared to allow her to order her own affairs until she has had her first family, and then, after that, to attempt to organise subsequent litters. Whether I am right or wrong in this attitude is not something which could be decided from the few facts which have come from my own cats, but I have also collected the experiences of many other breeders, and up to the moment I am still convinced that Cat and Nature combined know far more about the matter than I shall ever know.

As far as I can see, there is little harm done to a queen by having a family at an age when most breeders would consider the queen too young, for the producing of a family does not seem to entail a great physical strain.

The point to bear in mind is that it is the rearing of kittens which makes heavy demands upon the mother, and it is here

that the breeder can step in and limit the number of kittens to be reared. How many kittens should that be? That is one of those questions to which there is no answer, for the number depends upon the physique of the queen, her age and a host of other factors which can only be assessed by the owner.

I think that I have now covered all the points which were raised in the letters sent to me on this subject, but before I finish I should like to add a sort of postscript of more general application.

During the past twenty years medical science has provided for human ills an amazing array of new drugs which have saved literally tens of thousands of lives. Few of them, thank Heaven, can be bought over the counter, for it has long since been realised that there are dangers as well as benefits attached to many of them. Many of these drugs have also been used for cats and have saved many lives.

What I should like to warn you against is the giving of such drugs just because YOU think it would be a good thing. It so often happens that when a vet. is called in he prescribes something which results in an apparently miraculous cure, and when the invalid has recovered, there are a few tablets or capsules still left. You decide to save these until next time, but it would be far better if you threw them down the sink, for correct diagnosis precedes prescriptions, and, with due respect, few of you know anything about diagnosis.

Those whose business is animal research admit that their knowledge of cats is very far from complete, so why should you imagine that you can safely monkey with Nature?

Assume that your cat is perfectly fit until you know that it is ill, and then, unless the trouble is obvious and the cure simple, seek the help of those who have been trained for the job.

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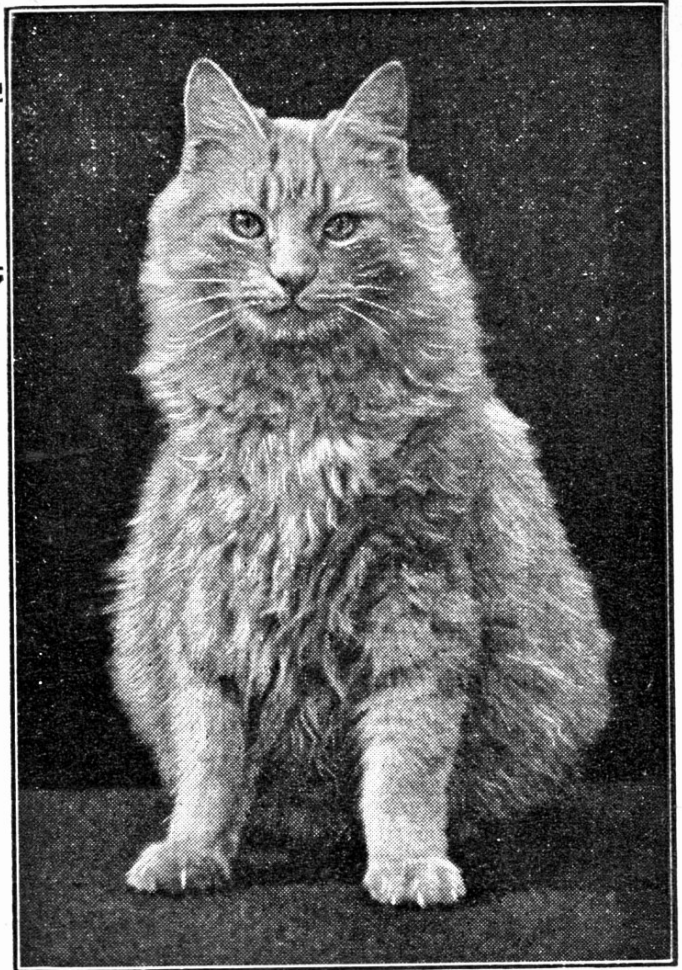
TIM

**MRS. O. BEVIS, of 14
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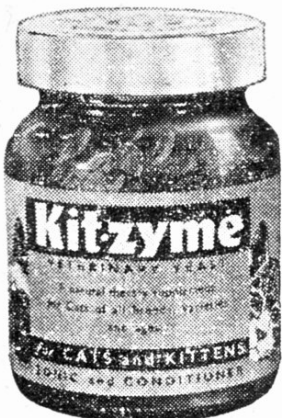
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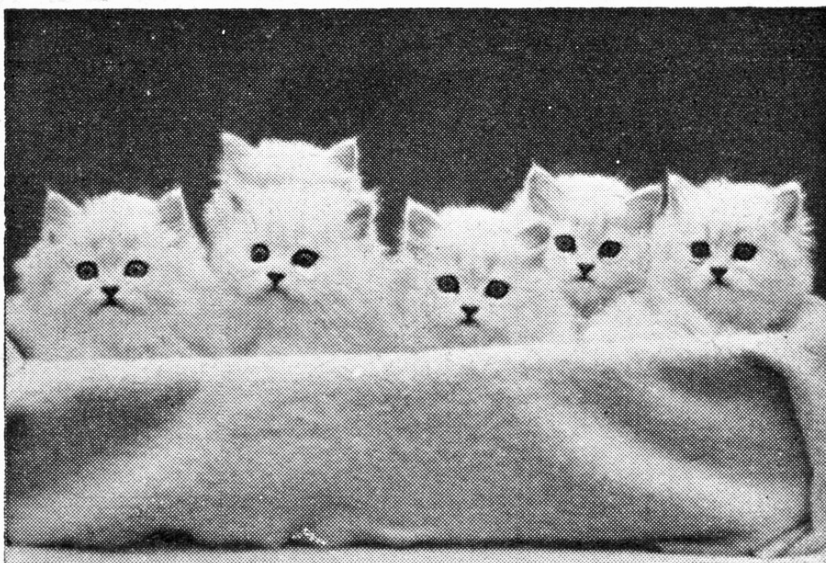
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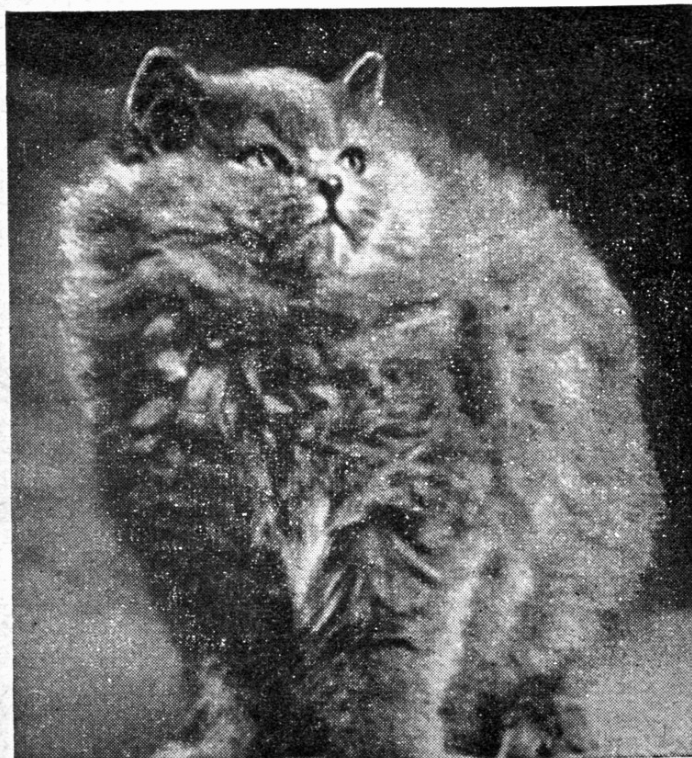
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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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.

24th October. To the Midland Counties Cat Club Ch. Show at Birmingham, so genially presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Lamb. A really well-lit hall is always a good beginning, and at the Friends' Institute some of the exhibits were literally basking in sunshine.

Best Longhair Cat was Mrs. Herod's White Ch. Carreg Cracker, looking lovely at his first show this season. Best Shorthair Cat was Mrs. Lamb's Seal Point Siamese Ch. Morris Tudor, also taking on all comers triumphantly at his first show since January. Other prominent winners were: Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Kirkus's Blue-Cream Suncroft Nefertiti (by the Blue Challenge Certificate winner Mrs. Culley's Thiepval Wanderer); Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Lamb's Seal Point Siamese Pincop Simon; Best Neuter, Miss Crosher's Blue Longhair Pyleigh Peter.

Several cats were awarded their final Ch. Certificates—Mrs. Mayne's Cream Fanifold Kittiwink, Mrs. Tomlinson's Tortoiseshell Pekeholm Pomona, Mrs. Chapman's Tortie and White Hendon Snow Maiden, Mrs. Jones's Silver Tabby Shorthair Don of Silverleigh, Mrs. Menezes's Abyssinian female

Taishun Jasmin, Mr. Stirling-Webb's Chocolate Point Holmesdale Chocolate Soldier, and Mrs. Nicholas's Seal Point Siamese female Ryecroft Ranchi.

A very enjoyable Show, blessed by a sunny day and what appeared to be a good gate.

3rd November. I journeyed to Watford to visit Mr. Page, his daughter and their Blues and Blue-Creams. It was nearly dark when I arrived so I did not see much of the cats as they were just about to be put to bed, but I noticed their good condition and how attractive Woburn Wink (the dam of Woburn Sunshine) was looking. After tea Sunshine and his half-sister, Woburn Sweet Lavender, came in and their lovely colour made me realise how seldom one sees really pale blue kittens at six months of age. Their new coat had already grown on head and shoulders. It was still pale and they should keep this shade when adults. Pale blues at a few weeks old are plentiful, but their second coat is so often nowadays shades darker. The B.P.C.S. standard states: "Any shade of blue allowable, sound and even in colour, free from markings, shadings, or any white hairs." But I have yet to meet the person who does not prefer the pale or light medium blue coat. Even when kittens are purchased for pets the palest blues are usually first choice.

5th November. To the Kenilworth Hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Vize's farewell party to their friends before leaving

for South Africa on the 8th November. Many well-known members of the Cat Fancy present and everyone cheery as our host and hostess were so much looking forward to their holiday. Let us hope they are not too captivated with South Africa as Mrs. Vize has been a keen worker for the Fancy for many years and has given so much valuable help here.

I was sorry to hear from Mrs. Tucker that her daughter Pat has given up breeding cats. Her Red Tabby Shorthairs are some of the best we have seen at post-war shows. When her Ch. Vectensian Copper Eyes was mated to Mrs. Bridgford's beautifully marked Rivoli Rogue and his son, Rivoli Robin, she produced many big winners, including Ch. Vectensian Rio Tinto. Both these females have now been spayed, but fortunately the line is not lost as Mrs. K. R. Williams has a fine representative in the male Vectensian Anaconda, and there are a few others of this breeding.

10th November. Dinner with Major Dugdale and Miss Webster and, of course, to see the small cat family. Ch. Harpur Blue Boy was looking lovely strolling about the lounge and later lolling on the wide mantelpiece. He is a lovely shade of pale blue and very sound in colour. He has taken some time to mature, but with his massive head, neat ears, deep eye colour and short nose is a fine male. Blue Boy greeted his trio of kittens by Gippeswyk Jane with great gusto when they trooped in. The male, Harpur Romeo (First in the 3 to 6 months class at Croydon), is a good kitten with a good, broad muzzle and short nose. The females, Blue Orchid and Juliet, have done some winning, Orchid being second to Mrs. Denton's Trenton Sugar Plum at Olympia. Later we went out to the well-built, electrically lit cat house to see their dam, Gippeswyk Jane, who is a daughter of Ch. Southway Crusader. A young male from a previous litter

completes the family. A very enjoyable evening with congenial companions.

14th November. To the Seymour Hall, Marylebone, for the Silver Jubilee Ch. Show of the Croydon Cat Club. This hall is one of the most suitable I have ever seen for a cat show. The windows, in tiers right across the lofty roof (and incidentally very clean), gave a perfect light. The modern restaurant and snack bar over the entrance added to the amenities. One or two judges considered the banners in harmonising colours across the roof threw "pink" shadows on the Creams and Siamese and played tricks with eye colour, but from a spectator's point of view they were very effective.

It was a lovely sunny day, and although the hall was comfortably full one would have liked to see more spectators. If breeders really wish to have expensive halls like this for shows they will have to rally all their friends to visit them. A problem which has not yet been solved is that no club can afford to adequately advertise a London show, and if they don't advertise the gate is disappointing.

The Festival Show in July and the two shows at Olympia were given "a good press," and consequently we had astonishing results. So we know the Great B.P. are interested if a way can be found to inform them in advance about the dates and venues of cat shows.

Best Longhair male was Mrs. Culley's Blue Thiepval Wanderer; Best Longhair female Mrs. Crickmore's Chinchilla Ch. Thiepval Snow Cloud; Best Shorthair male Mrs. Williams's Red Tabby Vectensian Anaconda; Best Shorthair female Mrs. Major's Abyssinian Kreeora Sheba; Best Longhair kitten Miss Lelgarde Fraser's Red Tabby Hendon Orsini, an exceptionally deep coloured and well marked kitten in perfect show

form. His owner also won both Red Tabby adult classes with Ch. Hendon Lysander and Hendon Danséuse, bred by the late Mrs. Campbell Fraser.

Best Shorthair male kitten, Miss Siver's Red Tabby Brookfield Rufus ; Best Shorthair female kitten, Mrs. Earnshaw's Abyssinian Heatherpine Wadi ; Best Longhair Neuter, Mr. Bramley's Chinchilla Lord Charles ; Best Foreign Shorthair Neuter, Brigadier Rossiter's Siamese Kinki Pu ; Best British Neuter, Mrs. Walter's Simmon Briggens.

Quality in Blue kittens was excellent, and among the 26 exhibited several former prize winners were present. Mrs. Cooke Radmore elected Miss Page's lovely pale blue male kitten, Woburn Sunshine, her best Blue kitten, and he won well in side classes under other judges. Some lovely Seal Point Siamese kittens—also former first prize winners—faced keen competition. Among the 38 present, two of the first prize winners, Miss Warner's Inwood Flame and Mrs. Raleigh's Hymers Herme, were by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo, whose progeny have won so well this season. The other first prize winners were Miss Duke's lovely Hollygrove Fiesta (by Darwinnie Marlborough) and Mr. Whiting's Maiz Mor Mandarin (by Lindale Simon Pie). The Challenge Certificate winners in adults were Mrs. Ross's Beechdene Topaz and Mrs. Towe's Hillcross Melody, both bred by exhibitor. An innovation in the catalogue was that the kittens followed the adults of the same variety. Three hundred and thirteen exhibits and 1,346 entries made a brave show. Mr. Arthur Towe, the Show Manager, has excelled himself this autumn. The Crystal Show followed by Croydon has been a heavy managerial undertaking, and we are indebted to him for so much enthusiastic effort, which means a sacrifice of other interests.

17th November. To the Scottish Cat Club Show, Glasgow. The Chris-

tian Institute provided ample space, but all judging had to be conducted in artificial light, a condition which penalises Blues more than any other variety. Mrs. Richardson, Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, had everything well prepared, so there was no last-minute bustle and a happy atmosphere prevailed.

Mrs. McPhail was awarded the Redyetts Perpetual Trophy for Best Longhair Cat or Kitten with Tweenie-hills Daisybelle, one of a lovely trio of Blue kittens by Ch. Southway Crusader. Mrs. Wood Neil showed Best Longhair Adult, Julian of Pensford, a Blue male by Mokoia Tafete. Mr. Watson's Red Tabby Red Lady of Rockvillia (by Rivoli Rogue) was Best Shorthair Cat or Kitten. Best Siamese exhibit was Mrs. MacLennan's Inwood Sun (by Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertama), and Best Siamese kitten Mrs. Robinson's Albyn Aurora (by Ch. Morris Tudor), bred by Mrs. Oswald, Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club, who hold their own annual Show on 15th December in Edinburgh.

The Household Pets were a show in themselves. Prizes were offered for the cat with the longest tail, the youngest cat and the oldest, the latter being a very pretty Orange Tabby Shorthair 19½ years of age. She looked youthful and very smart with her large emerald green bow as she was proudly presented from the platform by her owner. Dinah, a Tortoiseshell - and - White, owned by Douglas Dow, aged 11 years, of Glasgow, had twice fallen from a three-storey window and to-day "landed on her feet" again by winning three prizes. An outing last Hallowe'en and a runaway Dinah led to this happy sequel. She originally came from a dairy near Douglas's home two years ago. On Hallowe'en Douglas called on the Hon. Victoria Bruce, President of the Scottish Cat Club. A few days later Miss Bruce found Dinah wandering round her house and

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KEEP CATS KITTENISH

recognised her as one of the family from the dairy. So when she learned that Dinah belonged to Douglas, Miss Bruce returned her with an entry form for the Show. Over 800 persons attended the Show, which was well advertised in the Glasgow press.

18th November. Awakened to be greeted by Miss Bruce's pets Gayleslie Red Duchess, who was first in Red Tabby Longhairs the previous day, her neutered son, Redyetts Bracken, her Blue Cream daughter, and two huge Neuters. All were in lovely condition. The garden is wired in so they have complete liberty.

In the afternoon to visit Miss Paton, of Greenock. Her cat family is numerous and varied—Silver Tabbies, Red Tabbies, Creams and a Tortoiseshell, Rebekah of Rockvill, first prize winner the previous day. The outstanding Silver Tabby was Ch. Lucia Amelia of Rockvill, well known at Southern shows.

In the evening to call on Mr. and Mrs. McPhail to enjoy meeting friends of the Scottish Cat Club. The cat family were all enjoying an early night after the previous day's outing. The Club is flourishing, although all are ambitious to achieve a larger membership and each year a bigger and better show.

19 November. A surprise item to me in the November issue of OUR CATS was the publication of Dawn of Pensford's photograph with the cap-

tion that she was exhibited at Olympia. This was not so. I entered her and her Cream brother, Sunbeam, but decided not to take them as I had three kittens at home waiting to go abroad. If everything had gone according to plan they would have left England before the show. When illness is about, as it has been after this rainy summer and autumn, one cannot be too careful with kittens, especially when they commence teething round about 3½ months. When the kittens eventually travelled to Italy they went in baskets made by the Royal London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind. I should like to recommend their very well made, strong baskets, fastened with two firm straps. The sizes (inside measurements) are from 14 ins. x 10 ins. x 10 ins. to 18 ins. x 12 ins. x 12 ins., and prices are from 33s. 11d. and 39s. 6d., including purchase tax. They also make cat sleeping baskets in two useful sizes. This is helping such a splendid cause, and incidentally ourselves, as the materials used seem much more substantial than the average nowadays. Mr. Sillence, Manager, Basket Department, 105-9 Salusbury Road, London, N.W.6, will be pleased to give any other particulars.

The tenth volume of the Stud Book, just issued by the G.C.C.F., is obtainable, price 3s. 6d., from the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. It contains the names of all the prize

All fanciers should read

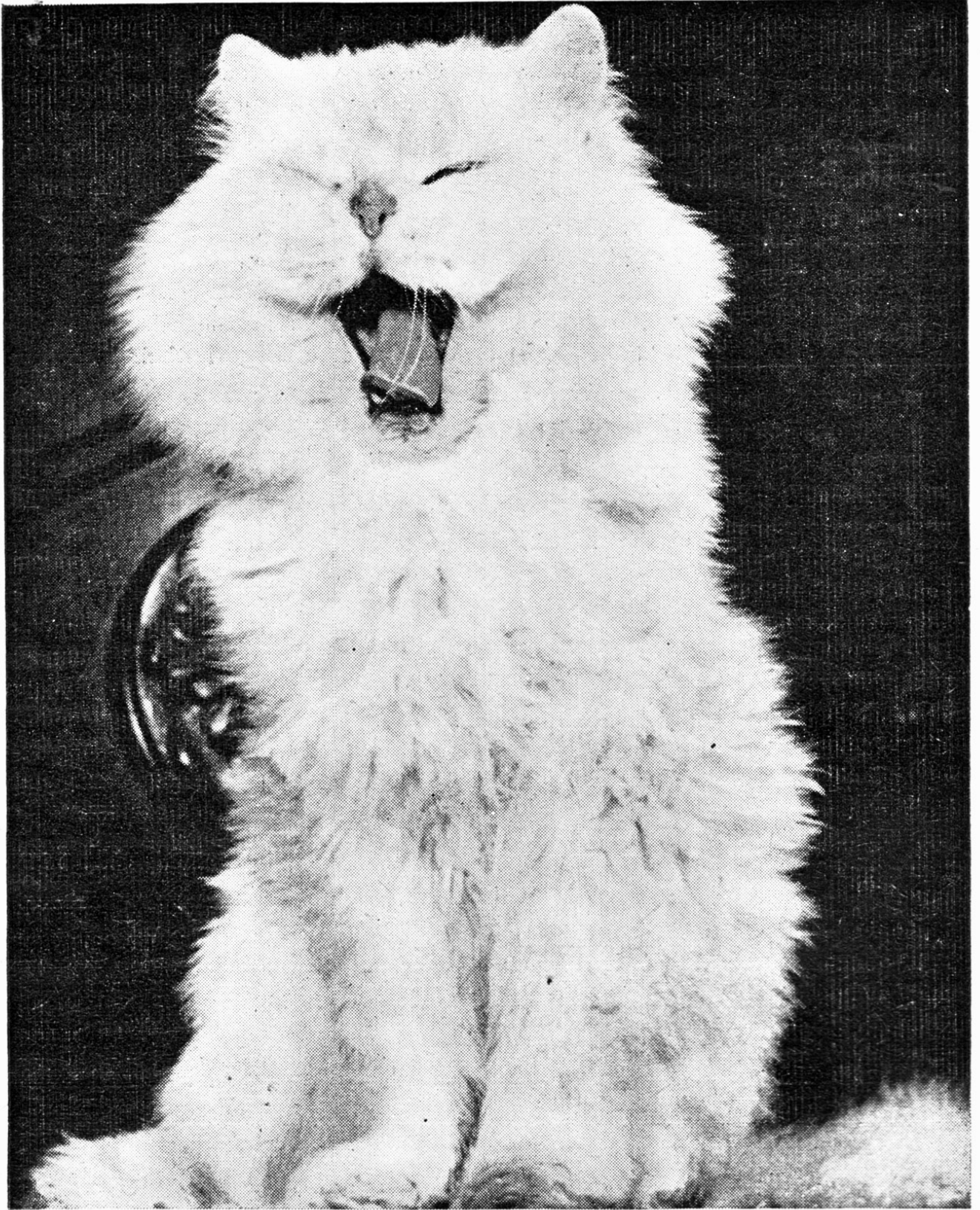
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Giancolombo, Milan

THAT AFTER-THE-PARTY FEELING !

winners in the Open Adult classes from 1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1951, and several other registered cats and kittens. Registered prefixes and affixes take up 40 pages, although as many owners are deceased it is not a true record of the number of persons breeding cats. A list of cats which have become champions since March, 1948, makes interesting reading. A surprising feature is that more breeders have not taken advantage of the reasonable rates to advertise their cats, especially as it is an all-time record. Other items make it an indispensable book for breeders.

By the time this appears the Shows for 1951 will be over. Here's wishing cat lovers here and overseas a Merry Christmas and, for those of us with sad memories, Peace and Contentment.

Editor's Note: Just as we go to press with this issue the sad and tragic news of Miss Bruce's death in Glasgow on 25th November has arrived from Mrs. F. M. Richardson, Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Cat Club. The Hon. Victoria Bruce was one of our most enthusiastic readers and contributors and I shall greatly miss her kindly interest and encouragement. The whole Fancy in Scotland will be the poorer for her passing and certainly the Scottish Cat Club has suffered an irreparable loss. Mrs. Richardson writes: All we can do now is to keep our late President's ideals ever before us and strive to live up to her high principles.

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It was a hard decision to make, whether we should bring her or not, but we are all thankful now, especially as it is so obvious that she has been well cared for.

I wish to thank Messrs. Spratt's for consigning her for me; also whoever looked after her aboard the "Port Brisbane" and I trust that my letter will assure any of your future clients that here at least is one very satisfied and grateful customer.

Again my sincere thanks.

Yours faithfully, (Signed) Muriel A. Scrimshaw.

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YOUR CAT, by P. M. Soderberg. (Cassell & Co., Ltd., 3s. 6d.) 118 pages, 8 plates. Our regular contributor has done another nice job of work here. His book is pithy and full of commonsense likely to help the novice and newcomer. And, what is important these days, it is exceptional value for money.

CATS, by Ylla. (The Harvill Press 21s.) 72 pages of feline studies by a really great photographer. It is a sumptuous production and easily the picture book of the year.

CAT ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Kit Wilson. (Right Way Books, 6s.) 170 pages, 14 drawings and diagrams and 22 photographs. One of the best-known figures in the English Cat Fancy, former Chairman of the Governing Council, International cat judge, Editor of "The Cat Fancy," etc., has put into this book much of her great knowledge and experience. It is grand value for any cat lover; showing, breeding, illnesses, etc., are admirably covered by Miss Wilson.

ORDINARY CATS, by Charles Duff. (Williams & Norgate, Ltd.,

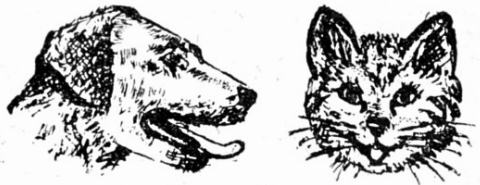
7s. 6d.) 120 pages and 25 photographs. The author includes many interesting details of the origin and history of the cat family. Main theme is the study, from an unusual angle, of the complicated nature of the most inscrutable of all animals.

SIAMESE CATS, by Phyllis Lauder. (Williams & Norgate, Ltd., 6s.) 96 pages and 14 photographs. In this book all aspects of an attractive breed are discussed in easily understood language. Special reference is made to health and care and there are a number of entertaining stories to enliven the book.

A DICTIONARY OF CAT LOVERS, by Lady Aberconway. (Michael Joseph, 30s.) A delightful anthology and a fascinating biographical dictionary. It ranges from the earliest days of ancient Egypt up to modern times. Truly a work to treasure.

Any of the books mentioned above can be ordered through this Magazine. Postage, 6d., should be added to remittance.

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American Personality

MRS. BERT NORCROSS

MRS. BERT NORCROSS, who writes under the name of Lynn Hamilton, has a decided poet's personality. Born in the great state of Texas, lulled to sleep by the wild and weird night cries of the mountain cougars from the distant canyons, proved more interesting to this small girl than fairy tales. It was life in the wild, rugged, vital life—and Lynn was getting it first hand. No matter where she lived after leaving Texas, whether it was a pent house or a garden cottage, her life has been littered, yes, actually littered with Persians or domestic Shorthairs; thoroughbreds or alley-bred, they each received the kind, thoughtful treatment of food and love.

At this writing Miss Hamilton's feline family consists of Snow White, Inky Poo and Sasha, a Red Persian Peke. Lynn Hamilton is a free lance crusader in the truest sense of the word. She is as much at home on the radio as at her desk in her home town of Pomona. Educated in Oklahoma, later moving to Arizona, she is now a native daughter (in spirit anyway) of sunny California. Miss Hamilton belongs to the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Avalon World Arts Academy, Midwest Poetry League and to the National Poetry Society of America.

She has just finished a cat anthology, "Sophisti-Cats," that is truly wonderful. This book is compiled and edited and illustrated by Miss Hamilton. The book consists of three hundred and fifty pages of cat poems, devoted entirely to poetic eulogy of the feline family, for the last ten centuries and twice as many countries. The great and loving heart of Lynn Hamilton shows in some of her



original poems in this book which makes you think of St. Francis of Assisi: "God gives special grace to those who love their little sisters and brothers, the birds and the beasts." One poem written by Miss Hamilton is widely quoted. I refer to "A Chronicle of Mercy," founded on Psalms 50, 12—"For every beast of the field is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."

Truly, Lynn Hamilton has an insight and an understanding of all creatures—felines probably a little more than others.

BILLIE BANCROFT

We regret that Billie Bancroft's usual American Newsletter is missing from this month's issue because of a postal delay.—Editor.

A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

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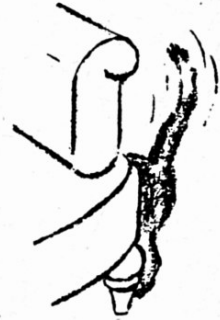
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Tailpieces

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



WHEN Miss Beatrice Taylor, of Exmouth, died, she bequeathed her cat Tightly to her great friend, Dulcie C. Marshall, and "£1 per week so long as my said cat lives and has the freedom to live at 25 Withycombe Road, and to come and go as he pleases."

The Rev. C. F. Hodges, Rector of Ickham, Kent, started trouble when he publicly appealed for a tax on tom cats. According to the London "Star," he received many letters from angry cat lovers all over the country. Says the 65-year-old Rector: "The letters give the impression that if a cat and a baby fell into a river, the writers would dive in and save the cat and do nothing about the baby."

"Our cat, Mrs. Pussy Whitefoot, is aged 27 years and seven months. She is very healthy although unable to see or hear." M. A. Parrott, West Clandon, near Guildford, writes to the London "Evening News."

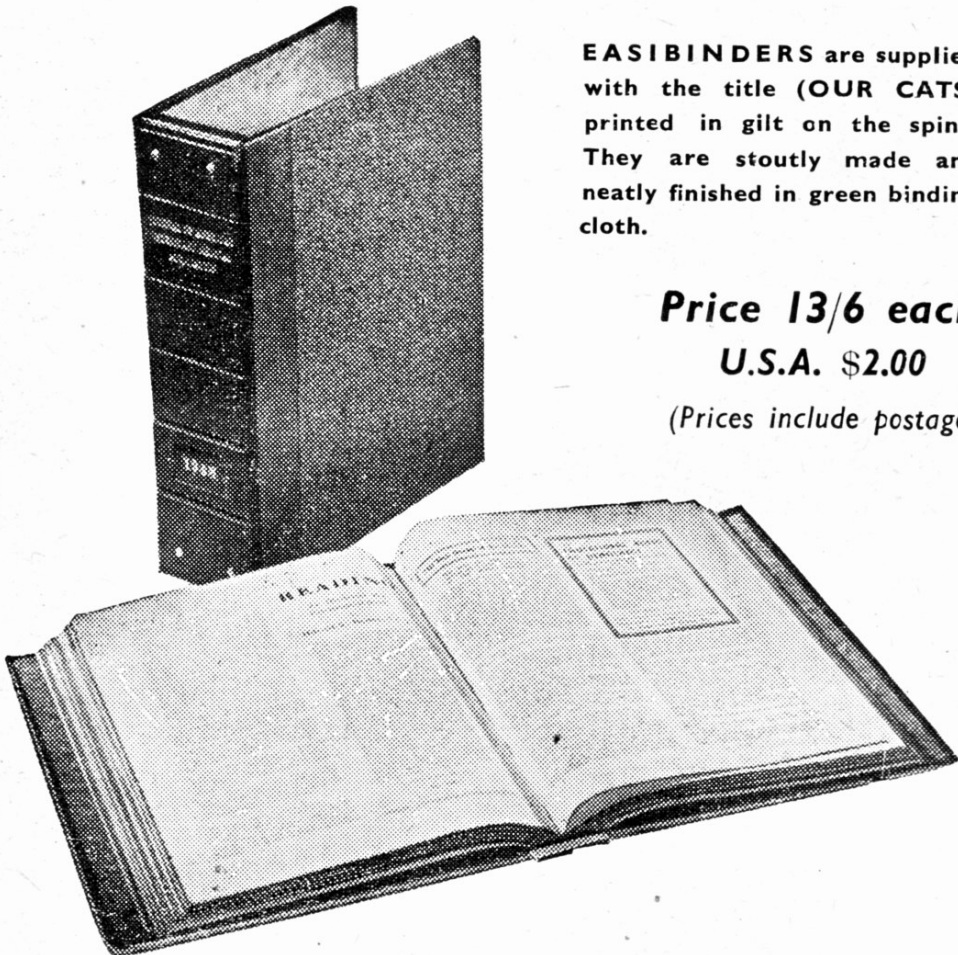
"Every night a hedgehog eats our cat's food left outside the kitchen door." Mrs. Hazel G. Cavey, Whipton, Exeter, writes to "The Sunday Express."

Secretary Albert A. Steward reports that the Cat Week sponsored by the Cats' Protection League helped quite a bit to swell funds for the £1,000 Appeal which the League has launched. The Week culminated with a successful bazaar at Slough which was attended by three of the characters in the radio serial Mrs. Dales Diary—Douglas Burbidge (Dr. Dale), Dorothy Lane (Mrs. Freeman) and Thelma Hughes (Sally Lane). Gifts of engraved silver pencils were presented by them to a Slough school-girl, Penny Hall-Page, and a neighbour, Mr. Arthur Duckett, for saving the life of a cat when a fire occurred in a mineral water factory. Tig, the cat, was not forgotten, as she received a gift box donated by the makers of Kit-E-Kat, Ltd. The League's funds benefited by over £200 as a result of Cat Week activities.

In last month's report of the Crystal Cat Show at Olympia, one of the main awards was omitted. It was the Crystal Cup for the Best Shorthair Cat in the S.H. Cup Class. This was won by Miss F. Robson, of Dulwich, S.E., with her well-known Silver Tabby Champion Hillcross Silver Flute, whose picture appeared in our May issue this year.

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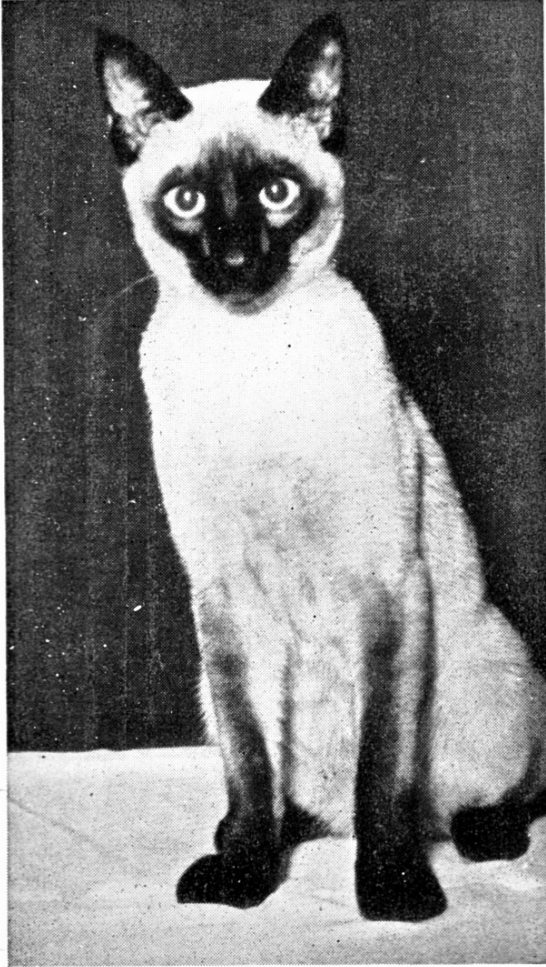
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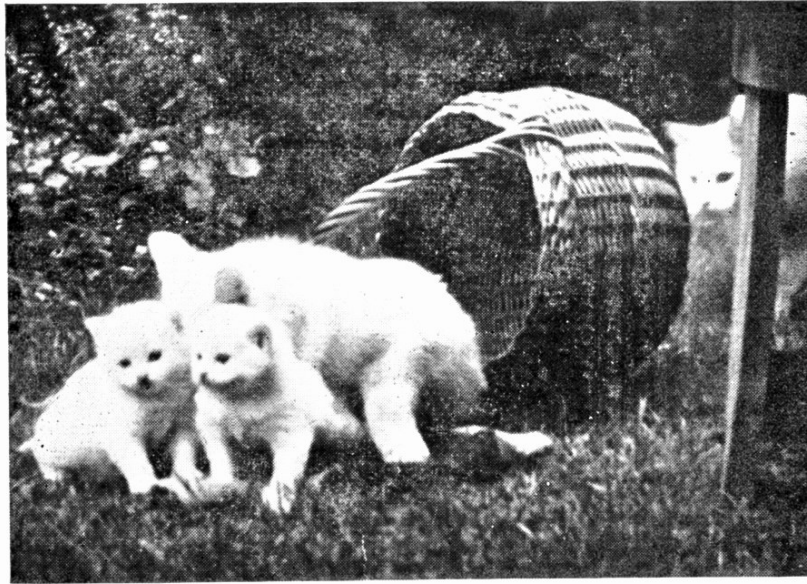
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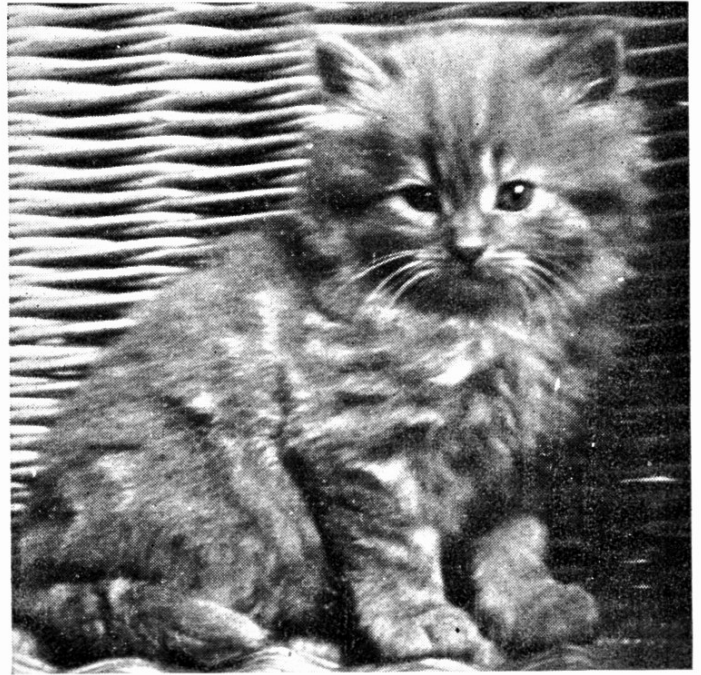
PICTURE PAGE



(Above) GRACEDIEU YAI eyes the camera a trifle dubiously. Owner is Mrs. G. E. Matthes, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, a successful breeder of Siamese.



(Top right) BLONDIE, a pure white queen, with a pair of her babies. Lurking in the background like the villain of the piece is "Father." Blondie, who has had about forty kittens, belongs to Mr. Bernard Gunner, of Harrow, Middlesex.



(Right centre) KINGSMEAD ROBIN, a nice Red Longhair kitten at 3 months by Hendon Mysander ex Hendon Ballerina, bred by Mr. A. Baude, of Chandlers Ford, Hants.



(Bottom right) COODEN PHILESIA, young Red Longhair by Danehurst Gilda ex male E Candytuft, was bred by Mrs. Shaw Fletcher, of Cooden, Sussex.

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