

AUTHORITATIVE INSTRUCTIVE

Our Cats

ENTERTAINING COMPREHENSIVE



CHAMPION PURRING TOM KITTEN

Bred and owned by Miss Ellen L. Jury, of Catford, S.E. London, Tom Kitten is an outstanding representative of his neglected variety—ihe Longhair Silver Tabby. In this month's issue Miss Jury contributes an article tohich she hopes will serve to situ up a little more interest in this essentially British cat, which once enjoyed a place of high esteem in our teleview of the setting of the set of the setting of the set of the set of the set of the setting of the set o feline circles.

IANUARY 1955

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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

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American Associate Editor: MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Serafino

Champion BERYL DE LABORDE, a Golden-eyed White Persian bred in France by Mme Pollin and belonging to Mlle Rosine Meynot. This nice cat was one of the winners at the 3-day show in Paris last November of the Cercle Felin de Paris, of which Mme Elisabeth Noel is the Secretary-General. Of the 200 exhibits, Blue and White Longhairs were the outstanding varieties.

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Sir William Nicholson, eminent painter and craftsman (1872-1949), made these six delightful sketches of Tango, Sir Winston Churchill's favourite marmalade tom at Chartwell in 1934, and presented them to Lady Churchill. For their reproduction we are indebted to the Dowager Lady Aberconway who has kindly contributed the short article on the next page about Sir Winston and his cats. Lady Aberconway, herself a great cat lover and author of "A Dictionary of Cat Lovers." has recently had a new book published, "The Story of Mr. Korah," with illustrations by Rex Whistler.

Sir Winston-Cat Lover

By CHRISTABEL ABERCONWAY

D^{URING} his long life Sir Winston Churchill has been in turn soldier, politician, orator, author, painter, Prime Minister, and finally saviour of his country, and also a devoted husband and father and a wonderful friend. Where animals are concerned he has always been devoted to cats of all breeds, and to poodles.

Yet the following incident is known only to one or two of his friends. In 1943, when he was convalescing after a severe attack of influenza following his journey to Casablanca, Egypt and Cyprus, he was visited by one of his ministers who found him resting in bed, with his large black cat Nelson lying at his feet.

During the course of the conversation Mr. Churchill, as he then was, remarked : "This cat does more for the war effort than you do. He acts as a hot water bottle and saves fuel and power."

The minister noted that Mr. Churchill called the cat "My dear," and he was informed by Mr. Churchill that this cat always accompanied him in the car to and from Downing Street.

On an earlier occasion, when the late Sir Eric Maclagan, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, himself a great lover of cats, was having luncheon with Mr. Churchill at Chequers, he found to his delight that the chair next to him was reserved for Nelson, who then proceeded to sit sedately beside him during the meal. It is also interesting to recall that the painter, Sir William Nicholson, made lovely drawings (see opposite page) of another of Sir Winston's cats, a splendid marmalade tom named Tango, also known as "Mr. Kat."

A further instance of Sir Winston's fondness for cats is recorded in his book "Scotland Yard," by Sir Harold Scott, a former Commissioner of Police :

"I remember Sunday, September 7th, 1940," he says, "the day after the big raids began."

"As Chief Administrative Officer of London Region, I conducted the Prime Minister on a tour of the East End so that he might see for himself what was happening. A little black cat, I recall, caught our eye as we were crossing a railway line down in Silvertown, and the Prime Minister interrupted his inspection to spend some minutes talking to it, while I apprehensively wondered where the next bombs were going to fall."

It was said of Sir Thomas Wyat, the father of the poet, who over four hundred years ago was saved by his cat from starvation when he was imprisoned, that he would ever after "make much of a cat as other men would of their spaniels and hounds."

These same words can certainly be said to-day of Sir Winston Churchill.

Meet some American friends ...





Mr. Price Cross, of Dallas, Texas, is something of a pioneer among American Siamese breeders. He has imported English cats.

Mrs. John W. Kearns, of Long Beach, California, collector of cat books and figurines, with 4-year-old black-and-white Tante Sheba, one of her three pets.



Mrs. Dorothy Porter-Walley, of Austin, Texas, with a special favourite Chinky.

And on the right, a little fellow with a big name, Bynes Cao Bien (means "General") with Mrs. Lois Day, of Inglewood, California.



Dr. R. Mosteller, of Chattahoochee, Florida, with English-bred Lemling Lady Essex, sired by Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertama.



Let's have a Revival of the Longhair Silver Tabby

Suggests ELLEN L. JURY

BEFORE the 1939 war we had a number of Silver Tabby Longhair cats but during the war they became almost extinct. As far as I know, there were only three breeders possessing one—Miss Paton, in Scotland, Miss Bracey, in Bristol, and Miss D. M. Collins, in Sussex. Miss Bracey possessed a stud and Miss Paton two queens and Miss Collins a queen.

In 1952, Miss Paton wrote me and asked if I would like her queen Bunty of Rockvilla, the daughter of Ch. Amelia Lucie of Rockvilla, a queen who had visited my Chinchilla stud more than once. By the same post I had been asked to give a home to Gayleslie Red Duchess, whose owner, the Hon. Victoria Bruce, had died suddenly. I had promised I would give this cat a home if ever necessary so accepted at once, but felt rather uncertain about accepting Bunty as I already had a number of cats.

However, I had always wanted a good Silver Tabby so gave it careful consideration and finally accepted.

Bunty duly arrived. But there was no Silver Tabby stud for her, the only one Antonio of Silverleigh (owned by Miss Bracey) being her litter brother. So I was obliged to mate her to another colour and eventually chose Purring Toby, a beautifully marked Brown Tabby and White Longhair. Bunty produced six kittens, five females and one male. One female, a Brown Tabby, is Champion Purring Hazel and the one and only male Purring Tom Kitten, is now a Champion and the sire of 1st prize winning kittens. I also mated one of my Chinchillas to this same stud and she produced a lst prize female kitten and 2nd male. The next year I mated this Chinchilla queen to the well-known Brown Tabby Trelystan Jasper owned by Miss Cathcart and she produced Purring Victor, who has won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes this year and hopes to be at public stud in 1955. In 1953 I mated Bunty to a Black but she did not have any Silver Tabbies but one nice Smoke and two smokey blacks.

I think to get Silver Tabbies you must keep Tabby to Tabby and if you have not a Silver use a Brown or Red. This year I mated Bunty to her son Tom Kitten and got very good Silver Tabbies and I hope this year to mate Gentle Faith, her 1st prize kitten, to Mrs. Crosthwaite's Purring Victor as he is a complete outcross.

Five Studs Available

There are now five Longhair Silver Tabby studs in the country, three at public stud, Purring Tom Kitten in London, Purring Victor in Birmingham and Antonio of Silverleigh in Bristol. Also, there are two others, Purring Vincent in Worthing and Purring King Neptune at St. Ives. These latter two are not as far as I know at public stud.

There is now great scope for anyone who will take up this fascinating breed. There is really no more beautiful cat than a really well marked Longhair Silver Tabby, but we do want more breeders to take an interest in them and try to improve them. We want to improve type for like all the Tabbies their type is very poor, but to keep the markings and improve type is not an easy matter.

A Blue cross might help but we are bound to lose the markings. The same applies to a Black cross. A good Smoke stud might be used with advantage but we shall probably lose the markings or at any rate get them smudgy. The same applies to a Chinchilla cross though I think a Chinchilla of really good type is probably the best, expecially if you can get a very dark Silver Tabby queen.

Another thing we must always bear in mind is that the longer the coat the less the markings show. A cat with a short coat will appear more distinctly marked than a cat with a very long coat. The Shorthair Silver Tabby is far more distinctly marked than the Longhair, but we can get the markings in the Longhair. The coat will greatly vary during the seasons and the markings almost disappear at times and then as the cat comes into coat the markings all show up.

A Fascinating Venture

The other alternative is to cross with a Shorthair. By this we shall keep the markings. Ch. Dorstone Dominique, the only other Champion Silver Tabby Longhair at the moment, was bred from a Shorthair queen owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gurney of Sutton Coldfield. I do not like crossing long and short hair because I think we lose type and build. The whole set up of the Shorthair cat is different from the Longhair and the coat is never so long.

I now have a very nicely marked female kitten myself bred this way by Mrs. Regan by her Shorthair queen and I think it quite likely that this kitten will be a prize winner when shown. But I am anxious to breed Longhair to Longhair and therefore favour one of the other Longhair Tabbies in preference to a Shorthair Silver.

The longer the coat the more blurred the markings get. That is why we have such strongly marked Shorthairs and more washy Longhairs. This applies equally to the Brown and Red Tabbies but undoubtedly by care and patience we shall get the tipping of the Longhairs deeper for it is the depth of the black tips to the silver fur which makes the markings. To breed a good Tabby is one of the most fascinating ventures one can You may get many disundertake. appointments in your kittens, but with patience and perseverance you will in time breed your Champions.

For a pet cat there is nothing more beautiful than a well marked Longhair Silver Tabby stretched out in front of the fire purring contentedly or sunning herself on the lawn in summer.



This prettily marked Tabby cat is known as "Miss Kitty Paws" and she belongs to Pauline and Linda Young, of Windsor, whose pet she is. Miss Kitty loves catching the drips as they fall from the water tap. She prefers fish to meat, plays with marbles which she carries about in her mouth and thoroughly enjoys a romp with the dog Sally. In short, she is the perfect family pet.

A Book in the Making

By P. M. SODERBERG

Author of "Cat Breeding and General Management" and other widely-read books. Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club.

VER the past six years I have had a great number of letters from fanciers and owners of ordinary cats who have read what I have said on the subject of cats either in books or in articles written for periodicals here and in the U.S.A. It is to all these good friends of mine that I want to make an appeal.

In 1946 I wrote a book called "Cat Breeding and General Management." It was absolutely the best book on the subject in this country and that for a very good reason—it was the *only* book of a comprehensive kind which had been written on cats since the early part of the century, when Miss Simpson wrote her famous but "out of print" "Book of the Cat."

From the time of the publication of this book of mine it was very well received, and over the past six years has been, I hope, of considerable help to a large number of cat owners. Yet as the years have gone by I have realized more and more its inadequacies and the fact that it was also rapidly getting so out of date that it ought to be completely rewritten. You and I, and many other people who may not even read OUR CATS, are interested in the subject of cats in general.

I am going to write another book, but I feel that I could now do a much better job if you were to tell me what you felt to be essential in a book on cats. Although the last book was about 120,000 words, it was definitely incomplete—it did not answer all your questions. I realize, of course, that no book can ever answer all the questions, but if you who read this article tell me what you want and get your friends and other cat owners for that matter, to write to tell me what such a book should contain, I shall be happy to try to produce something which you will regard as adequate.

Now there is no need for you to buy a copy of "Cat Breeding and General Management" so that you can find out its shortcomings because practically all the libraries in the country have it on their shelves and you can borrow without any difficulty. I am not trying to sell anything, but merely asking for the chance to do a better job.

One or a Series ?

Another question I should like you to answer for me is "Ought it to be one book which is bound to be expensive because of its size or should it be several books making together a whole to cover all aspects of cat keeping, breeding and showing?" If that were done, the smaller books would not cost so much and would perhaps be more within the reach of people who might feel they wanted help but could not afford to pay for a single book which might be little less than 200,000 words in length when completed.

What the publisher would have to say about a series of books to cover "The Cat" I have no idea, for the simple reason that I have not asked him. What is certain, however, is that he would be glad to know the opinion of the people who have a real interest in cats. As far as I myself am concerned, either plan would suit me equally well. The writing of a cat book does not entail loss for the writer, but there is no fortune in it. I know a number of other topics likely to produce far greater financial rewards, but this cat book has to be written.

I should like to say just one or two things about this new book. Whatever form it takes it will be fully indexed. Whether in addition it should also be arranged alphabetically is another matter; a matter upon which I should like your opinion.

Secondly, it will be very much better illustrated than the book which appeared in 1948 when paper and publishing generally were difficult. There are still some diffculties attached to illustration, but they are much less than those of 1947 when the first book was in the process of preparation. This time the photographs of cats will be placed at the end of each section of thirty-two pages and they will be printed on the right sort of paper, a fact which will make a very great difference to their appearance.

Good Photos Wanted

I hope that many of you will be able to help with suitable illustrations. The photographing of cats is extremely difficult even for the professional; for the amateur the task is almost impossible. To find fifty photographs which are suitable for reproduction, almost ten times that number of photographs may have to be inspected. If any of you can provide photographs of the right quality I shall be grateful.

Well, there is little more to say except that I really do want your help. I am sure that between us we can produce a book which will be extremely valuable, or, perhaps I should say books. No book, however, will remain up to date for ever, but I feel certain that I ought to replace a book which has served its purpose but which quite frankly seems to me now well past its prime.

There is no absolute urgency in this matter, but I should like to make a start during 1955. Such a book as this will take a long time to write. At the moment I have several books on hand to complete by the end of June, but on July 1st I should like to start on this new book. With your active help I can finish it in twelve months.

After all, there are so many cats in this country and still so much ignorance about them that their welfare cannot be left to mere chance. No one person could cover the field without omissions, but the combined opinion of the Fancy would help to produce something that was really worthwhile.





DEO GRATIAS HENDRAS CANDY-TUFT, Cream female kitten belonging to Mrs. T. Hanlon, of Natal, South Africa.



BEFORE — AND AFTER !

We are indebted for these fascinating pictures to Lt.-Colonel Harold Williamson, of Nairobi, Kenya, who suffered a grievous loss a short time ago by the death of his wife, whose great love for animals he had shared for many years. Cats always held first place in their affections and Mrs. Williamson had been a subscriber to OUR CATS from the first issue in 1949.

A few months before her death, Mrs. Williamson discovered the abandoned kitten shown in the top picture where it is receiving much-needed attention from Della, her prizewinning Siamese female. At the time, Mrs. Williamson wrote : "The kitten was discovered abandoned in long grass at the bottom of a Kenya garden. Such fur as he has is completely black ; he is blue-eyed. He turned the scales at 6 ozs. and appeared to be about two weeks old. Only his fierce wish to live kept him going. He purred loudly from the beginning and standing up clasping his feeding bottle, christened himself Warwick, the Bear and the Ragged Staff."

The little waif soon thrived under the care and attention he received. A lucky black cat, indeed! In a year he had become the magnificent cat you see in the lower photograph. Colonel Williamson adds: "The kitten blue of his eyes has turned to yellowy-green and I think he was the offspring of a Siamese male from Bangkok that we owned and a neighbouring grey Persian lady. I have brought him down here (Tanganyika) with my two Siamese and they all seem quite happy.



WHISKERS

Mrs. M. ELLIS of 163 Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, writes :--

"My ten year old cat, Whiskers, had an out-break of eczema and I gave him a course of Kit-zyme. He improved after the first 50 tablets so I continued giving Kit-zyme with the result that he is now completely free from eczema.

I have told all my cat lover friends about Kit-zyme and they too are very pleased with the results."

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Ref. No. 105

Parasitic Skin Diseases

By M.R.C.V.S., who previously dealt with the subject of feline skin diseases in our November issue.

Pediculosis. Also known as phthiriasis, or lousiness. Comparatively speaking, cats are not often affected with this malady, and when they are so affected, the consequences are far less disturbing than is the case in the dog. The cat acts as host to only one type of louse namely the *Trichodectes subrostratus*, a biting louse which feeds upon scurf.

The trichodectes of the cat is somewhat smaller than that of the dog, from which it is also distinguishable by the conical shape of its head. It is not easy to discover amongst the debris in a thick, furry coat, and a hand lens may be required for its detection. The intermediate host of the tapeworm (*Taenia Elliptica*) is sometimes the louse; thus, by the ingestion of the latter during the process of cleaning itself, a cat may become infected with tapeworm.

Cat lice do not adhere closely to the skin but perambulate amongst the hair. They do not leave the body except by accident, so that infestation of a cat usually occurs as a result of direct contact.

An animal debilitated from any cause such as anaemia, distemper, etc., or which is a victim of mange, is more readily affected by lice than one in robust health. Similarly, dirt or an unattended excessively-thick or long fur, are conditions which favour the inception and extension of pediculosis.

As to whether a cat can infect a dog or human being, such is always possible, but parasites which are indigenous to one species of animal rarely find conditions upon another species compatible with comfort and continued life, and after a while drop off. Lice are very prolific indeed under suitable conditions, and it is said (*Neumann*) that the third generation of a louse of the human head amounts in about 12 weeks, to approximately 125,000 individuals. The eggs, or nits, are laid upon the hairs in close proximity with the skin.

Symptoms. The symptom which first attracts attention is pruritus (or itching) which is manifested of course by scratching, though it never seems to be very marked in the cat unless the infestation is very severe. The irritation may affect any part of the body, as the trichodect seems to have no predilection seat, so long as hair is present. The cat's fur becomes harsh and lustreless and is found to be impregnated with abundant Some loss of condition may be scurf. occasioned through lack of rest and, in rare instances, lesions simulating eczema may be set up. In examining a cat, therefore, which exhibits such skin irritation, one should bear in mind that what appears to be a dry eczema may owe its origin to lice, and that these parasites may possibly be co-existent with mange.

Eradication. There are very many agents which are quite efficacious to the destruction of lice, but comparatively few which will kill the nit, and fewer still capable of removing it. Notwithstanding the great choice at one's disposal, it must not be forgotten that the susceptibilities of the cat are so exacting that an otherwise wide range of parasiticides is considerably narrowed down.

The old-fashioned oil and sulphur, aqueous dressings or mercurial powders have been completely superseded by the products of modern research, and it is no longer tolerable for a cat to be



"SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME"

Miss Esther Bright is a grand old Quaker lady of 86 who lives at Camp Farm, Wimbledon, S.W. London. She is an invalid and her greatest comfort comes from the companionship of her three cats, Nigger, Jet and Baby. Two years ago, when relatives moved from the ground floor of her home and new people moved in, she devised this gangplank walk for her pets to enable them to come and go as they please through the kitchen window. Frequently other cats make use of the facilities offered ! Miss Bright, who is a niece of John Bright, is a lover of all animals and she is ceaseless in her work on their behalf.



M. Littledale

A trifle gruesome, but interesting ! It was an old English custom to brick up a dried body of a cat in the wall of a house as a scarer of vermin. They are discovered from time to time by demolition parties. This cat was found in a hollow wall of the Old George Inn, Salisbury, and is now to be seen in the local museum. It is holding an English black rat, which is said to be extinct to-day, and it is probable that both the cat and rat were alive in the 18th century. exposed to the extreme discomfort of the one, or the danger of the other.

Benzene hexachloride (known also as BHC, and gammexane) and D.D.T., are powerful parasiticides, the first named having a rapid lethal effect ; and the second a much more prolonged action. BHC is incorporated in many proprietary preparations, but it should not be present in a greater strength than 0.2 per cent. Such a powder is placed in a tin possessing a perforated lid (such as a pepper pot) from which it can be shaken into the cat's fur, without waste.

A Safety Jacket

No part of the body should be left untreated, particular attention being paid to the head, round the ears, under the chin, down the legs, and the whole tail. Such a dressing should be reapplied every five or six days in order to kill the newly hatched parasites before these have time to lay a new lot of eggs. There is little danger of poisoning from BHC in spite of the animal's licking habit, yet the possibility is always present. Such danger can be eliminated by sewing the cat up in a light well-fitting linen jacket. The latter will serve the purpose also of containing all the dead or half dead lice which fall out of the fur.

A number of fatal results have followed the use of DDT preparations, whether as powder, aqueous solution or oily suspension, and particularly the latter. The writer therefore does not recommend its employment, especially as there is no known specific antidote.

A cat which has been dressed and finally freed of vermin should not be permitted to come in contact with old infested bedding, boxes, clothing, carpets, or other articles. What cannot be burnt or boiled, should be dusted with BHC or sprayed with Flit.

Ringworm. This fungoid affection of the skin is occasionally encountered in the domestic cat; it may in fact be present in some cases without being suspected. One type of ringworm, known as *favus*, is a not uncommon disease of rats and mice and it follows that the cat will be more frequently exposed to this infection than to the other types.

The *cause* of this disease is a minute vegetable parasite or fungus, only discernible under a microscope. Favus may appear on any part of the body, though the paws, fore-legs, nose and face are the parts of the cat mostly affected. It is characterized by an initial swelling of the skin at the affected area, and then a mycelial growth attacking the hairs and agglomerating them into yellowish raised crusts presenting a hollow or cup-shaped surface.

The lesion may be of any size up to about half an inch in diameter. Hairs may be noticed to protrude through the crusts, and if pulled upon, these come away easily without breaking off, as would happen in other types of ringworm. As hair continues to grow beneath these crusts, the latter are raised and, if forcibly pulled off, one finds a moist surface beneath.

Transferable to Humans

The crusts are composed mainly of mycelium caked into a hard mass by serum and hair, and when they have existed some time they tend to disingrate and become powdery.

Whilst ringworm sometimes appears to set up some slight irritation in dogs, practically nothing is felt by cats. Many cases have been reported in which human beings have become infected by their cats, dogs, or tame mice with ringworm (and vice versa), and whilst it is not by any means a serious disease, it sometimes proves very troublesome to eradicate. A week or fortnight elapses before any symptom appears after infection.

Two other types of ringworm may be found in cats, namely *Tinea Tonsurans* (*trichophytosis*) and *T. Microsporon* (*microsporosis*). The first named fungus gives rise to a very small circular depilation which may, in time, attain a diameter of one inch or more. It attacks mostly the head and neck, though it is sometimes found on other parts of the body. The lesions are covered with grey, scaly crusts, raised in the centre. The hairs become brittle, are easily broken, and later are shed. This type of ringworm often appears suddenly and will frequently run its course inside of three weeks, and may disappear spontaneously.

Microsporosis is clinically similar to trichophytosis producing circular hairless patches covered with grey scales. This type is not rare in cats and may be seen on kittens before their eyes are open. All these fungi are obligatory parasites and their lesions are circular in outline. By confluence however, their shape may be considerably altered and irregular.

Pedigree cats, particularly Persian and Siamese are the most susceptible of all to

microsporosis, and on account of the absence of itching, it is rather apt to be allowed to spread without hindrance. Animal microsporosis never attacks the scalp of man.

Treatment. Owing to the great difficulty of accurate diagnosis, and to the susceptibility of man to infection, it is most strongly advised that professional aid should be sought at the least suspicion. Diagnostic methods belong to the laboratory. The presence of ringworm having been affirmed, however, owners of cats are warned not to accede readily to the suggestion that the victim should be destroyed.

There are effective modern methods of curing the complaint, particularly by the organic mercurials ; but further information and details must be obtained from the veterinary surgeon. It would be most unwise for the layman to attempt home treatment.

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Reproduction

Our popular contributor on genetics responds here to the many requests he has received—mostly from novice breeders—for more information about the various aspects of reproduction. This is the fourth article in a fine new series prepared exclusively by Mr. Jude to help and encourage our readers all over the catiworld.

T may be as well if, at this stage, we describe briefly how the youngsters are carried. The uterus (or womb) with its two appendages, or horns as they are technically named, gives us an organ shaped somewhat like a tuning fork, the handle representing the womb proper, and the two prongs corresponding to the two appendages. In the case of mammals where the general habit is to bear one offspring, the uterus continues to grow as pregnancy advances, while the tubes remain small.

In the case of those mammals which produce a number of youngsters at each pregnancy, the uterus does not function in the same way, and carries no young, its purpose being taken over by the tubes which extend up round each flank of the female. The walls of the tubes are very thin, being almost transparent in the case of the cat. Each younsgter is attached to the wall of the tube by a tiny discshaped organ called the placenta.

Leading from the placenta there is a cord which enters the youngster's body at the umbilicus. The cord contains blood vessels which convey blood to and from the placenta, and it is by means of the placenta that the interchange takes place between dam and offspring, the waste products of the offspring being transferred to the circulation of the dam through the placenta ; whilst the placenta also absorbs and passes on to the youngster the elements necessary for life and growth. In other words, the placenta is an organ of exchange and has to function as stomach, lung, and kidney for the young developing organism.

The tubes in which the youngsters are carried, as has already been mentioned, are so thin-walled that they must occupy a minor role during labour, and part of their function in this respect is taken over by the muscles of the abdomen and the diaphragm ; the diaphragm being a dome-shaped muscular organ which divides the chest from the abdomen. This explains why when a queen is carrying a fairly large litter, labour is slow and difficult. The muscles of the abdomen being over-distended lose tone and power and in consequence, the apparatus for expulsion is much impaired.

Birth of the "Egg"

The essential male organs are the testes, which in all domesticated animals are a pair of glands contained in the scrotum and situated outside the main cavity of the body. These glands give rise to the sperms or reproductive cells whose function it is to unite with, and so fertilize the ova of the female. They also elaborate certain chemical substances which pass into the blood (internal secretions or hormones) and by their power of stimulation are responsible for the growth and development of nearly all the distinctive male characters-other than the actual possession of the testes. So the possession of testes is regarded as the test of maleness.

-A single sperm (spermatozoon) is exceedinglysmall. For instance, in as large an animal as the horse it is only about one five-hundredth of an inch in length. But the number of sperms released at one ejaculation is extremely high—seldom less than several millions. The sperms swim freely in the elaborated fluid secretions, the fluid being known as semen. In addition there are several accessory glands communicating with the common

WHO Said TIBS?



You should have heard the purrs of welcome when I was introduced!' said Tibby, the Tibs Reporter. 'The mere mention of the name Tibs made every puss in Mrs. Barker's cattery, sit up and take notice. No need to ask her if they were all brought up on Tibs!'

WELL-KNOWN stud champion Sylvadene Solomon, shown above, gained his previous award at the Midland Counties Cat Club Show — October, 1952. Mrs. Barker's Chinchillas have won numerous prizes on a Tibs upbringing. She herself says — 'I make it a rule never to be without Tibs, and now they are in tablet form I like them better than ever. They do help to keep that healthy bloom and clear eye on my cats that tell me they

are in tip-top condition.' 10d. and 2/-



Famous breeders sav:



uro-genital passage, all of which secrete fluid substances and contribute to the semen in which the spermatozoa swim.

Just as the testes of the male are the essential organs of reproduction, so are the ovaries in the female. They not only produce the eggs but also elaborate internal secretions comparable to those of the testes. The initiating of the development of the female characters is carried on by these secretions just as the testicular internal secretions initiate the male characters. The egg produced is similar to a hen's egg in miniature, and although it is rather larger than the sperm, nevertheless it, too, is exceedingly small.

Functions of the Ovaries

The eggs (or ova) are contained in little sacs technically known as Graafian follicles. These begin by being very small, but as they reach maturity their cavities grow bigger and bigger until at last they protrude from the surface of the ovary ; eventually they discharge the eggs to the exterior in the act of ovulation. The number of eggs contained in the ovaries is far in excess of the number used in the reproductive life. The number of eggs shed at ovulation will, to a large degree, govern the size of the litter produced.

The ovaries are attached, one on either side, to the dorsal wall of the abdominal or main body cavity with which they are connected by the "broad ligament." The oviducts and uterus are also suspended by the broad ligament, which is a double fold of tissue arising from the wall of the body cavity. The oviducts or Fallopian tubes open internally into the body cavity close to the ovaries on either side ; the openings are surrounded by fimbriated expansions which receive the ova when these are discharged from the ovary. These ova are then conveyed down the oviducts into the uterus.

The ova are usually fertilized by the spermatozoa in the oviducts soon after they leave the ovary. The uterus is the organ that contains the developing young during pregnancy. It has thick muscular walls on the outside, and a mucuous membrane provided with numerous glands lining the cavity inside. These secrete a fluid (uterine milk) that helps to nourish the developing embryo during pregnancy.

The mammary glands, although not directly concerned with the reproductive processes are dependent upon the ovaries for their growth and for the initiation of their functional activity. They consist of milk-secreting tissue surrounded by a fibrous envelope, and for each separate gland there is a sinus or cistern for storing the milk and communicating with the exterior by a teat. The milk secreted by one gland passes out through the corresponding teat and cannot be transferred to the ducts of another gland, but the constituents may be reabsorbed and pass into the blood.

(to be continued)





Two firm friends belonging to Miss A. Isambard Owen, of Pwllheli, North Wales. Karulino Patrick ("Noel") adopted Bourneside Ian when he arrived at 2 months' old. Here Ian nearly has Noel off the table in his anxiety to "hog" the picture, but then Noel always lets Ian do whatever he wants!



Natal Mercury

Young South Africa is starting out on the right road. Master Anthony Denton with his Blue Pointed Siamese neuter ELEUTHERA LYSANDER, who has won the Premier award out there. Breeder is prominent South African fancier Mrs. Cyril Haywood, of Durban.

"In the Siamese World," by Kathleen R. Williams, will appear in next month's issue.



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

RS. JOAN THOMPSON —popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge — turns the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

Good Wishes and Goodwill

A^S these notes are written Christmas is just over and I must linger awhile to express appreciation and thanks for the kind wishes and messages of goodwill which came to me from cat lovers from the many countries I have visited. It is lovely to know one is remembered and I heartily reciprocate their good wishes and will endeavour to send personal greetings to each one in the New Year.

My first letter card was from Mrs. Cains, of Sydney, Australia, enclosing two charming snapshots of a baby Chinchilla, St. Chads Platinum Charm, which has a special appeal as her sire is Mrs. Hawkes's English import Ch. Sarisbury Lorenzo bred by our Mrs. Warren, and the dam is a charming cat which I admired at the Sydney Show last year, a daughter of Mrs. Burnage's famous male Ch. Rex of Chatsworth and Redwalls Ballerina, the latter bred by our Mrs. Hacking. Good wishes awaken so many happy memories when one has visited the country and the sender. From Mrs. Davies came a book by A. H. Reed : "The Story of New Zealand." This will be read with avidity. It commences with an episode on October 7th, 1769, when from the mast-head of the *Endeavour* Nicholas Young sang out "Land ho!" off Poverty Bay, North Island. It is a far cry from this to Mrs. Davies breeding Siamese at Wellington in 1954.

She sends news of Fa-Ying, to whom I awarded First and Ch. at Palmerston North and Mr. F. Pearce her second Ch. in June. She writes : "We have formed a Siamese Cat Club for New Zealand and so far have about sixty members. I am the President and Mrs. Odlin, whom you met whilst here, is Secretary-Treasurer. We are also reviving the Wellington Cat Club, which has about £200 coming to it from a legacy. This will be a great help in establishing a Club which we hope will flourish."

"I took Fa-Ying and two of her progeny to three shows last season. Her daughter Mati beat her in Auckland. I have adopted the prefix Wenvoe from a small village and castle in Glamorganshire near which I lived before coming to New Zealand. Mrs. Menzies, of Hamilton, has Wenvoe Mati and she was Best Female Cat at Auckland. Her sister Moliwan has gone to a breeder in Honolulu with a lovely home and garden and as there are no children the cats take first place. She travelled by air and arrived in the pink of condition. I have kept Charthra as a companion for Ying. The latter's mate is always Mr. Moran's imported male, Inwood Willow; by him she has beautiful kittens."

"A Professor who came out to the University this year brought a Siamese male bred by Mr. Richard Warner called Spotlight Peplum. His name is now John of Barnswood which seems a pity as Spotlight has become a well-known prefix in New Zealand through Mrs. Downey's Spotlight Pride. He is a younger full brother to him and will make a capital husband for Charthra."

" I am sending you a photograph of a picture painted by an English animal painter. It was accepted and hung in our Royal Academy show. I bought it and am very proud of it. The artist spent many hours sitting on the floor watching Fa-Ying and her kittens Wenvoe Maliwan and Charthra."

This letter brought happy recollections of an afternoon spent with Mrs. Davies and her husband the Very Rev. Davies the Dean of Wellington. Later we had tea with Mr. and Mrs. Odlin at their home, accompanied by the well known Siamese breeder Mr. Moran, who was keen then to revive the Wellington Cat Club. Auckland and Wellington are ideal venues for cat shows with their comparatively big populations, travelling facilities and, I imagine, a choice of halls.

Into the Sun

Mrs. T. R. James, who visited England in 1953 and purchased June Rose of Dunesk which she first saw at the Kensington Kitten Show, has left Minneapolis, U.S.A., to live in California.

She writes : "We like it here very much and the climate is perfect. The kittens have a good time and can be out all the time. Minneapolis was too cold in Winter."

June Rose, rechristened June Rose Bear of Dunesk, has had a very distinguished career in U.S.A. and is now owned by Mrs. Tibbetts. Now for news nearer to us. Welcome home to Miss Kathleen Yorke, safely arrived after her flight over the Atlantic and her judging engagement at the Garden State Ch. Show. I hear from New York that breeders over there found her, and her fellow judge, Mr. Stirling-Webb, charming and their visit was a great success. He has gone farther afield and may not be back in England until the end of January.

News from the North

Miss M. F. Bull has purchased from Mrs. Pullen the Blue male kitten Vigilant Mark by Ch. Astra of Pensford and Ch. Jewel of Dunesk. This beautifully bred kitten will be a great asset in the Midlands and here's wishing him future success when he is exhibited as an adult. He has only been shown twice but captured the honour of Best Kitten at the October show of the Blue Persian Society and Best Blue male kitten against strong opposition at the National Show.

Miss Bull has been breeding cats since 1939 and actually started because she was captivated with her Blue neuter purchased some time before. Her first queen she considered beautiful (don't we all ?) but quickly realized she was only suitable for breeding pets as she had a Blue pa and a Smoke ma-of doubtful ancestry. In 1940 she got into touch with me and purchased a female kitten, Pansy of Pensford by the late Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson's Playboy of the Court. She excelled in type and had glorious eyes but when Ch. shows were resumed nearly six years later had lost the bloom of youth so was not shown.

Glenshee Gloria was then purchased from Mrs. Donald and this queen mated to a male also bred by me, Ace of Pensford, was destined to become the mother of one of the loveliest of the postwar Blue males Ch. Deebank Michael, a lovely pale cat with brilliant eye colour. Unfortunately Ace was killed on the road whilst still very young. Miss Bull did not realize until later she had bred a "flyer" in Michael so parted with him when he was a few weeks old. She has owned some very good cats but owing to distance and domestic ties she has not been able to attend many of the shows. Circumstances have changed now and she intends to either visit or exhibit at several of them in future. She is one of the official judges of Blues and I should like to see her judging Creams and Blue-Creams, two varieties she has considerable knowledge of.

About 1943 she had her first Cream queen Byways Buttercup (by Stanhope Toad), a lovely queen in type, eye colour and coat, which I saw when visiting her in 1944. Later she bought Walverdene Major by Mighty of Sunfield, the latter bred by a well-known breeder, Miss Gabb, whom we see at the shows all too seldom nowadays. Major was destined to sire some lovely stock and several winners.

Miss Bull exhibited a Cream gem, Deebank Royal, at Manchester last January and this young male will be at stud this coming year. Two well bred Blue-Creams owned by her, one by Ch. Oxley's Peter John, will be mated to him. Her Blue queens are Deebank Gloria whom I admired very much when she came here to be mated to Gem in 1948 and her daughter Deebank Princess Fatima. At present she has two or three Cream queens which with her studs make a fairly large family but not too many when one has adequate help.

Success Story

Mrs. Dallison started breeding Whites as recently as 1951 so the honour of her kitten Dalmond Diamond being awarded Best Longhair Kitten at the recent N.C.C. Ch. Show, indicates what can be accomplished in a few years by a comparative newcomer. She attended the Crystal Show at Olympia in 1950 and thoroughly enjoyed herself. This show undoubtedly started many on the road to breeding cats and enabled literally thousands of the public to see for the first time how beautiful pedigree cats are and to see varieties which they did not know existed. No Club could afford to publicize a show on such a scale so to-day we have to be content to attract hundreds knowing the potential is thousands. Nearly 12,000 people attended the first Olympia Show.

Mrs. Dallison bred Ch. Dalmond Damarette from Mrs. Herod's Ch. Carreg Cracker and Ch. Wildwood Rose. Damarette has now been awarded seven Challenge certificates and has never been beaten in her Open class. The mating was repeated last year and Rose produced Diamond. She was so called because Diamond was Mrs. Dallison's maiden name and the family thought it might bring luck. Damarette's baby White female born in August was second to Diamond.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallison lived in Doncaster from 1920 until 1947, when they came to Canterbury, Kent, and she concludes her letter to me by saying : "Give me the South every time !"

A Record "National"

On December 8th at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, the National Cat Club organized its 58th Ch. Show. It was the most successful in its history with a record entry of nearly 500 exhibits.

Mrs. Grace Pond was responsible for the organization of this fine fixture and was a model of quiet efficiency, and politeness to exhibitors and visitors alike. Mr. Pond, Mr. and Mrs. Dunks and the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Brunton helped with much of the clerical work before the show.

An innovation was a competition to find "The cat or kitten I would most like to take home with me if it were possible." It was remarkable that two exhibits deadheated for the honour—



WAITER !

This amusing study won for David Johnson, Daily Sketch staff photographer, an award of 50 guineas and a diploma in the 7th Annual British Press Pictures of the Year Competition sponsored by Encyclopaedia Britannica Limited and the Institute of British Photographers. Simba, a Siamese who hails from Ealing, looks dissatisfied with his whiting ! Mrs. Tilley and Miss Clark's White Shorthair White Knight and Mrs. Plumtree's Rose of Tralee, also a Shorthair.

The hall was thronged from 10 o'clock onwards in spite of the rain which teemed down all day. One wonders what it would have been like if fine weather had prevailed as the advance publicity was The much larger better than usual. New Horticultural Hall has been engaged for the 1955 Show. This Hall has the finest light of any except Olympia and being so large some unlucky exhibits do not have to be penned closely facing a blank wall or beneath a balcony. This is usually the fate of Blue Longhairs as they are breed Number 3. No variety is so penalized by a poor light and cats which excel in colour frequently look little better than their rivals when they are penned on a wintry day.

Plenty of Judges

Twenty judges officiated and this was decidedly a step in the right direction as nearly every class was judged by the person appointed and officially proclaimed in the schedule. Exhibitors join clubs in many cases so that they can select the judges whom they prefer to exhibit under when the show season comes round and it causes much disappointment to see an announcement in the official organ a few days before the show that a different judge will officiate. Occasionally the deputy is one who knows little about some of the varieties which he is appointed to judge in large mixed club classes. In some cases judges have "shed " some of their classes on the afternoon of the show because they have too much to do and it is only after enquiries that the exhibitor knows who has judged the classes. When this is so, he can do nothing in the matter but when an official announcement is made the exhibitor has a right to withdraw his exhibit from competition in classes where the judge has been changed, but is

hardly likely to do so, especially if the cat is well known as its name and the usual particulars will appear in the catalogue. The obvious remedy is to appoint an adequate number of judges, allowing for the fact that the entry may be larger than anticipated. In exceptional cases, such as illness, exhibitors would naturally accept the situation philosophically.

Congratulations to breeders who have achieved so much since the war years depleted some of the varieties. What a magnificent array of cats and kittens awaited the judges and what enthusiasm and care must have gone into their I noticed a marked presentation. improvement in Silver Tabbies, Abyssinians and Russian Blues. Great credit is due to Mrs. Towe, Mr. and Mrs. Denham and Miss Rochford respectively for these varieties coming into the limelight, not forgetting the value of the publicity justly gained for Silver Tabbies by Brigadier Rossiter's Premier Neuter Bellever Silver Carnelian, always presented in such lovely condition. The Brigadier, by the way, was in charge of the "table," so all was well. An exhibit which captivated me was Miss Bone's exquisite Abyssinian female Ch. Heatherpine Juanita and to supplement her beauty she had tufts curling from her ear tips to add elfin charm to her appearance.

Winning Cats

The Best in Show was judged by a panel of Longhair Judges and the Shorthairs similarly. This method has gained rapidly in popularity.

The awards were as follow :—Best Longhair Cat in Show and Best Longhair Exhibit, Miss Langston's Chinchilla male Ch. Fidelio of Allington by Ch. Flambeau of Allington, one of the loveliest males I have seen of this variety in thirty years attendance at shows (pictured in October issue OUR CATS) ; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Dallison's beautifully presented White Dalmond Diamond ; Best Longhair Neuter, Mrs.

-DANEHURST CATTERY-

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A wonderful show and convincing evidence of the ever growing popularity of cats and the desire to breed them.

Some Abby. News

The Abyssinian Cat Newsletter issued last month maintains its high value of news interest to all cat lovers. Among many interesting items the editors, Helen and Sidney Denham inform us that their Frensham Rose of Sharon has been taken to Tangier by the Chairman of the Moroccan Bank, Mr. H. W. Brann. Frensham Zagazig, an Abyssinian also bred by them, produced the winner of a C.A.C. I.B. at Oslo Ch. Show on December 12th, 13th and 14th. The award, which can only be given to Champions and then only at the discretion of the judges was made to Ch. Assamiel Khama.

The Oslo Show

Mrs. Svenningsen, President of Norsk Rasekatt Klubb and Hon. Show Manager, sends news. She writes : "Our Oslo Show was very nice and we had a good gate in spite of the rain, which may have kept the long queue like we had last year from forming. The 120 exhibits were lovelier than ever, 23 came from Sweden and Denmark. Thirteen Challenge certificates were awarded and three C.A.C. I.B. The Best Longhair Cat was the Cream female Broughton Primrose. The Cream male Gleam of Pensford was awarded his first Challenge certificate. He has lovely type and eyes but is not so pale as Primrose. They both



ASHDOWN TWINKLETOES, Blue Longhair neuter and winner of the coveted Premier award. was bred by Mrs. F. H. Stephenson of Tunbridge Wells, and is now owned by the Misses M. and E. Marshall, of Eastleigh, Hants. Twinkletoes was voted Best Neuter at the last Blue Persian Society's Show.

came from Sweden and should produce some lovely kittens when they are mated."

"Best Shorthair Cat was the Silver Tabby, Int. Ch. Africa Thust, Best Kitten in Show, his son by Moonstone Regina which I bought when I was in London last year for the Coronation Ch. Show. The litter of five by the same parents was first and the judge Mrs. Juul-Hansen, Denmark, remarked she had never seen such lovely markings."

"Best Longhair Kitten was a Blue-Cream Drevvikshofs Anette, who has excellent type and is well mingled. She and her sister Annelis were purchased by a Norwegian breeder. They are sired by Cheri av Barbarossa, a son of Ch. Baralan Challenger so are of British descent. Mrs. Saether's Foxburrow Firefly was Best Longhair Neuter ; he is a lovely cat. Mrs. Haldis Rohlff's little Chinchilla, Redwalls Celeste, was mother of the Challenge certificate in females, Fabienne av Teheran, but she herself was not looking her best as she fell down the stairs from a loft three weeks before she gave birth to five kittens. She was far from well those three weeks as the fall killed the kittens but she is alright now."

" I have bought a Cream female kitten from Madame Pia Sandoz, Dido V. D. Viamala. We have six Abyssinians here now from the pair I bought in Copenhagen two years ago Frensham Zagazig and Croham Zara. Their grandson Mohamed Ali av Fhadvin appears to be very good—no bars—no white.

"We used the English method of judging, taking the table to the pen. We found it very satisfactory as the cats were not so anxious and the stewards escaped injury. One nice old lady seeing a C.A.C. I.B. award card on a pen thought it was the name of the cat and said : 'Oh ! you dear little C.A.C. I.B. You are a nice little fellow !'"



Champion LAURENTIDE CORONA, born 24.3.53, Blue Pointed Siamese winner of 20 First Prizes and five C.C.s in succession under five different judges. She was Best Adult Siamese and tied for Best in Show at the Herts and Middlesex Show and was Best Female Siamese at the recent Siamese Club Show. Owner-breeder is Mrs. A. Hargreaves, F.Z.S., Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon.

American Show Report

By KATHLEEN YORKE

THE 16th Annual Championship Show of the Garden State Club was a great success with record entries. The Wideaway Hall had excellent lighting and I found the judging rings were in good positions. Miss Elsie Hydon, who has so many friends in England, was Show Manager once again and the Club is indeed fortunate to have an official so experienced and capable in whom they can repose their trust.

Among the many beautiful exhibits of all colours, the Whites, both Blue-eyed and Orange-eyed, were particularly fine, carrying a wealth of softest texture coats of great purity of colour. Eye colour and shape in both these varieties were also very good.

Cream Best Solid Colour

I judged the Silver Cat Club of the West Speciality, Western Tortie and Tabby and Solid Colour Club of the East, some 204 exhibits all told. In the Solid Colour, my Best Exhibit was a perfect Cream male 18 months' old. Birduilla Jason, bred and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bird. He was one of the purest Creams I have handled in recent years and I was told later that he went Best Kitten last vear under Mrs. Vize. My Best Opposite Sex was another grand cat, a Black female, Hermscrest Linajha. owned and bred by Mrs. Frances Herms. a beautiful specimen and a delight to see and handle.

The Best Kitten was a Self Red female Willowwood Beauty, who would be a great asset in England with her deep colour and perfect type. My Best Blue was also Best in Show under Mrs. Carroll, the All-Breed judge. He was a very fine male Ch. Khyber's Lari of Birchhaven, who was entered in the Champion Class. The Blue Male Open winner Wimauma Dylan, bred by Mrs. Arvid Ohlin, is a son of Rosita of Allington. Mrs. Ohlin also won 2nd and 3rd Blue Female Open with Rosita and her daughter Wimauma Mair.

My 1st and Champion was a queen owned by Mrs. Glassman, Nigrette Fawzia of Shiraz, bred by Mrs. W. E. Limpert. She is a lovely youngster resembling Bayhorne Decima very closely.

In the Solid Colour Division I had some lovely Manx, the best being Mrs. M. L. Newton's Stonor Jet of Miamanx, a very handsome English import who is a Champion and winning all along the line. The Black Female Champion was also Mrs. Newton's Ch. Ellan Vannin Cornelia.

In the Silver Division, Best Kitten was Mrs. Merald Hoag's Chinchilla Nor-Mont Silver Jewel, sired by Faustino of Allington (imp.) out of Gr. Ch. Arlington Sensation II, who was my Best in Show of two years ago at Garden State. I judged some good Chinchillas, Shaded Silvers and Smokes. An outstanding Shorthair Silver Tabby, Lavender Silver Pattern, bred and owned by Miss Hydon, won many honours under the various judges. His colour is purest silver and his markings could not be better. The Tortie and Tabby Section also had some beautifully marked exhibits.

Over 100 Siamese

Tortoiseshells, both kittens and adults, excelled in type and colouring. Blue-Creams were also lovely—the breed comes under this section. Red Tabbies were outstanding for colour as well as type and eye colour. Best was a female

Protect against Feline Infectious Enteritis

Feline Infectious Enteritis is a very infectious virus disease of cats, sudden in onset and usually fatal. It may be introduced into a cattery following exposure to infection at shows and spreads from cat to cat in a locality. All breeds are susceptible and in some, such as the Siamese, the mortality rate is very high.

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Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb, my fellow guest judge from England, had a good entry in the National Siamese Cat Club Speciality—107 exhibits. His judging was very much liked and many are hoping to see him there again another year.

My thanks are extended to all the exhibitors who showed under me. The awards were received most sportingly. It was good to see later that my placings were practically identical with those made by Mrs. Carroll, just a few were varying slightly. It was a delight to be judging at the same show with her, Dr. Evan Sawyer and Mr. Stirling-Webb.

Mr. Anthony De Santis very kindly clerked for me. He is one of the best known breeders of Longhairs and an All-Breed judge. I owe him many thanks, also my painstaking and efficient stewards, Mrs. Crossman, Mrs. Cornell and on the afternoon of the second day Mr. Sven Nelson.



A nice study of a young Chinchilla—REDWALLS FLEUR. Bred by Mrs. Hacking from Ch. Flambeau of Allington ex Redwalls Snowstorm, Fleur is now owned by Mrs. W. Kingdom of Plymstock, Devon, and her picture has appeared all over the country in an advertisement for Ilford films.

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