

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



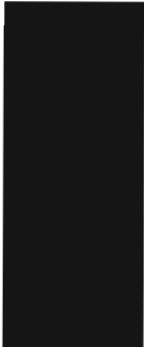
A pair of multiple-winning SEASPRITE Chinchilla Kittens owned and bred by Mr. L. V. Wellard, N. London fancier.

Photograph by F. W. Simms.

MARCH 1958

1/6

'FIOVAX' FOR PROTECTION



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 rapidly from cat to cat in a locality. All breeds are susceptible and in some, such as the Siamese, the mortality rate is particularly high.

To protect your cat against this disease consult your veterinary surgeon. He will advise you regarding protection, and can give you the 'Fiovox' Certificate

'FIOVAX' BRAND

FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE



Prepared at the Wellcome Research Laboratories

A BURROUGHS WELLCOME VETERINARY PRODUCT

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.

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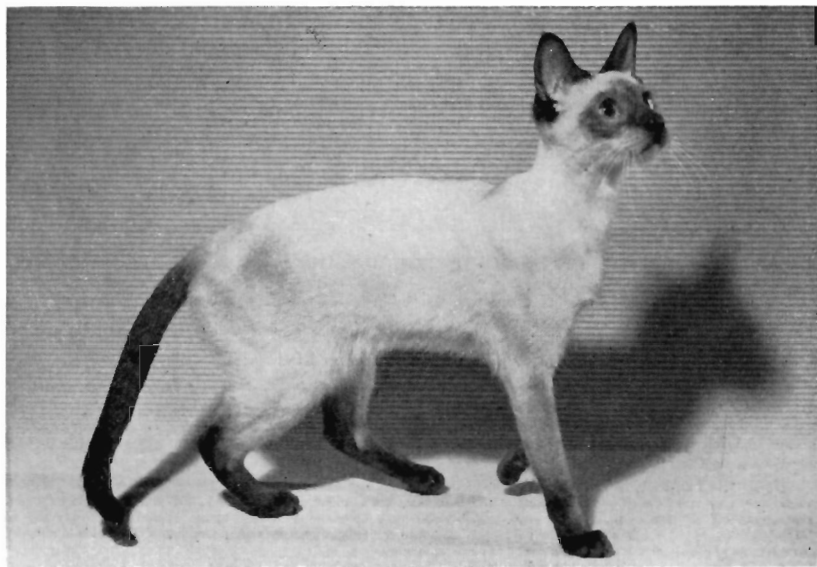
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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS




Gordon Laughter, Los Angeles

Gr. & Quad. Champion KOSCAK'S CHOCO-VIXEN, Chocolate Point Siamese female owned and bred by Mrs. Helen C. Koscak, of San Diego, California, U.S.A. She is the daughter of Gr. & Quad. Ch. Koscak's Suki, the oldest Chocolate Point still in active competition in America. We learn from Mrs. Koscak that "Vixen has some English blood in her background - Clonost, Holmesdale, Hillcross, Rycroft, Southwood and, of course, the grand old daddy of so many fine cats, Mystic Dreamer."



What's going on here ?

(Reproduced by kind permission of "Vare Katter," journal of the Norsk Rasekatt Klubb (Norak)). This delightful picture comes from Brehm's "The Animals and Their Living."

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Survival against odds

Who said Siamese are delicate !

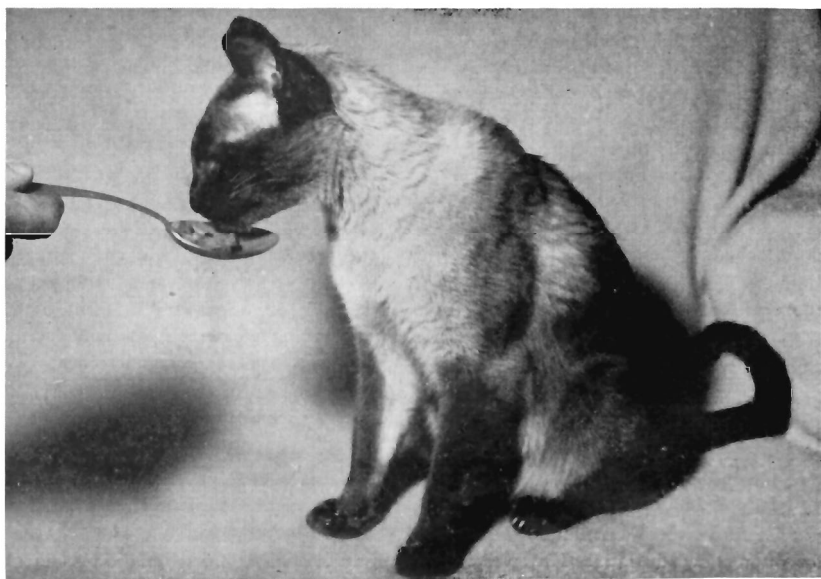
AWAY back in our issue for June, 1949, we told the remarkable story of a black and white shorthaired cat named Tinker who was rescued and nursed back to health after he had been trapped for 35 days without food and water in the black hell of a coal bunker. Tinker lived with two ladies in South Croydon, Surrey, and the date of his disappearance was established beyond doubt. It was early in April when he pushed his way past the trap door at the base of the bunker, which closed tight behind him.

An intensive search was made by his owners and their friends and sometimes it was imagined that Tinker's quiet voice could be heard appealing for help.

But nobody thought of looking into the bunker and it was not until Tinker had been missing for five weeks that the lid was lifted, purely by chance. There on the top of the coal lay Tinker, dirty, shrunken and desperately ill.

Under an inspired course of treatment undertaken by a kindly cat-loving neighbour, Tinker was slowly restored to full health. It took weeks of patient and careful nursing to achieve this result.

Now comes the remarkable but true story of a Siamese cat named Rikki which bears a close resemblance to Tinker's. Rikki disappeared from the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Harris, Palmers Green, N. London, on 24th October. It was 23rd November when he was discovered trapped in the loft of a neighbouring house, which is reached by a built-in staircase.



Careful feeding starts Rikki on the way back to fitness and health.

Various search parties went out for Rikki and sometimes his cries were heard. Eventually the occupant of the house decided to search the loft and there under the angle of the roof he caught a glimpse of shining eyes reflected in the light of a torch. Rikki, little more than skin and bone, was tenderly lifted down and taken to his home.

The journey back to health for Rikki was started with small meals of a meat essence, fish, etc., to which—again in very small quantities—were gradually added minced beef and liver, porridge and milk.

Thanks to the kind co-operation of Mrs. Helen Harris, we are able to give the fullest details of Rikki's escapade and to reproduce the accompanying pictures taken after his recovery by Mr. George Greenwell, of the *Daily Mirror* staff, who resides locally.

Rikki is a neutered male (now 18 months old) by Champion Kiltdown Sultan ex Ingleside Soubesant and was bred by Mrs. Margaret Halliday, of Newbury, Berkshire. Mrs. Harris writes: "He was one of a litter of five when he came to us at 10 weeks old. He has always had the freedom of the garden and also visits our neighbours' gardens. He is typically inquisitive, always opening and investigating cupboards, etc., and I surmise that he slipped into the house through an open door and on hearing someone approach, fled upstairs and up into the attic loft, which in this case is approached by means of an enclosed staircase. The door at the foot of the staircase, usually kept closed, must have been open at that time.

"When I recovered Rikki, he was quite docile and must have recognized me. He was literally just skin and bone and when I put him down at home, he could just stagger about. I first gave him about two teaspoons of finely chopped raw beef but found he had forgotten how to lap. However, he licked my finger when I dipped it in the milk and soon remembered what to



Rikki starts to play again.

do. I nursed him all that evening on my lap in front of the fire, offering him frequent small quantities of food whenever he seemed to want it. The first two nights I made beef tea from scraped beef covered with water.

"My 14-year-old daughter took Rikki to bed with her to keep him warm for the first week or so and gave him the beef tea whenever he woke. He spent the daytime on a cushion in front of the fire, having five or six meals daily over the first two weeks of convalescence. We were amazed at his rapid recovery, the way he regained his strength.

"I would like to add that the only noticeable effect of Rikki's exposure is that he seems unable to retract the claws of his hind feet and two of his whiskers have either dropped out or broken off. His coat has completely regained its gloss and texture."

The breeding queen *

By P. M. SODERBERG

(Author of "The Care of Your Cat" and "Pedigree Cats.")

ONE hears so many facts and fallacies with regard to the breeding queen that it may be of some value to consider a few of them here. At once it must be stated, however, that the breeding behaviour of cats is something individual, and although there is probably a general pattern, one cannot set out rules and regulations which apply to all queens.

I am surprised from time to time at the things I do hear from breeders who have had considerable experience, for they will argue from the particular and assume a generalization which is not true for cats as a race.

Many people think that a queen calls at regular intervals and there is a lot of truth in the belief, but it is entirely wrong to think that all cats have the same interval between two periods of calling. It is much nearer the truth that each individual queen is inclined to have her own particular rhythm. Some cats call almost regularly every three weeks, others call roughly at five-weekly intervals, and, of course, there is always the exceptional cat which does not call more than twice a year—it may be only once.

Although it is comparatively easy to understand why a particular queen calls at a specific moment, it is more difficult to find out the conditions which are necessary for this calling to take place. All that one can say is that when certain physiological changes occur, a queen starts to call. Naturally the condition of the animal has a lot to do with this, but the sexual life of individual cats depends upon circumstances which it is almost impossible to discover.

The statement that is sometimes made that a maiden queen never becomes pregnant if she is mated when she calls for the first time is entirely untrue, although experience often helps to establish this belief. One of the reasons why so many maiden queens, when sent away for the first time, are not later in kitten is because the first calling itself produces a very severe emotional strain. These emotions may have chemical consequences which make pregnancy temporarily impossible. Added to this is the fact that the queen has to be sent away to be mated, and the journey, with its excitements and its fears, helps to put a young queen off so that when she is mated there is no satisfactory result.

A Painful Memory

I think it can be stated with a fair degree of accuracy that maiden queens mated by a stud who lives at the same cattery are much more likely to be in kitten at their first calling than those which have to be sent away.

One often hears, too, about the queen who is angry and spiteful when she is mated, but it is doubtful whether the majority of breeders realize why a queen may be difficult at this time. In the case of a queen who has been mated on a number of occasions, the reason for her spitefulness may be due to the length of her memory because there is no doubt about it, the completion of the sexual act is extremely painful. As the male withdraws, his physical construction is such that he must cause pain. That this should be so is undoubtedly a natural necessity for the production of kittens but it is a long story and far too technical to be discussed here.

* Reprinted from our March, 1955, issue by request.

There are some breeders who firmly believe that the sex of kittens can to some extent be decided beforehand by choosing for the mating a particular day during the period of oestrus. There is no truth in this belief and whether there will be a majority of males or females is a matter of luck from the breeder's point of view. There may be certain scientific facts at present unknown which, if understood, would help to decide the right time for mating to produce a majority of males, but that time has not yet arrived.

There are other breeders who believe that certain measures can be taken to increase the size of a litter. Now undoubtedly there is here, too, a basis in fact, but to make quite sure that a queen has a large litter is something which cannot be guaranteed. From experience breeders would say that large litters run in families, and sires and queens which themselves come from large litters are more likely to produce large litters than other animals which have come from small litters. Even that belief is not universally true. The best chance of securing a large litter is to see that the queen is in first-class condition, that she has been fed well and given ample exercise, and that finally she is sent to a stud who is known from his past experience to be a producer of litters of satisfactory size.

Effects of Mismatching

There is an old fallacy with regard to the mating of queens which still crops up from time to time and is hard indeed to destroy, particularly among those who have not sufficient physiological knowledge of the cat. The idea is expressed from time to time that if a queen mismates, subsequent litters will also be affected. That is certainly not true, for once a litter has been born, all effects of previous matings are immediately erased.

It is true, however, that dual matings are possible. Probably it is because of this fact that the belief in telegony still persists. It is possible for a pure-bred cat to be

mated by a stud of the same breed and for the same queen to be mated again within twenty-four hours by any old tom, and for both pure-bred and so-called mongrel kittens to be produced at the same birth. The ova produced by a queen may not all be fertilized by a single mating and those that remain could be fertilized later. This might be the result from a mating with a stray male.

Nursing Mothers

The final fallacy to be discussed here is the mistaken idea that a queen cannot be got into kitten while she is nursing a family. That certainly is not true. The majority of queens do not call until the litter has been weaned, but quite a sizeable percentage do, in fact, call during the nursing period, and if they are mated the chances are that they will produce a second family. It is a very remarkable thing that quite a number of queens call within a fortnight of their litter being born and others perhaps during the sixth or seventh week after the birth of the kittens. At such times it is just as essential to keep the queen in and away from studs as it is when she has no family, and you do not want her to be mated except by the stud of your choice.

Obviously in this short article I have not been able to deal with all the points related to the breeding queen, but I think I have touched on those points which are most discussed by those interested in cat breeding.

There is still a great deal more to be learned, and if breeders are observant and pass on their knowledge, in time we shall be far better informed on this interesting subject.

Cat lovers with an appreciation of the artistic, particularly those who may be on a visit from overseas during the Merry Month of May, should make a point of seeing the Exhibition of Cat Drawings and Paintings by Miss Evelyn Coote Lake. Details will be found on page 20.

Reproduction (No. 42)

By A. C. JUDE

This popular series of monographs has brought added interest to breeding operations throughout the cat world and has helped fanciers by supplying information concerning both inherited and all other factors. Each article has a direct bearing on the genetic basis for the likenesses and differences between cats.

BY crossing existing varieties—recombination of factors—new breeds or varieties can be produced, and a knowledge of genetics has proved invaluable in the evolution of new colours or the establishment of coat type in breeds or variations. Examples so produced are the Silver Tabby in cats—through an effect from the chinchilla factor which turns the yellow bands of the normal tabby to near white; and the Silver Fox of rabbits where the tan belly and flank hairs are similarly turned to white giving the well-known Silver Fox.

In the process of producing new colour breeds or varieties it is desirable to use parents differing in as few characters as possible, for in all probability the desired production will be the recessive combination of characters shown by the original parents, and this will appear the most infrequently of any combination.

For example, if a Bluc is crossed with a Havana, there is a two factor difference between the parents, the former being B and d, the latter being b and D. If the parents are homozygous or pure for these two different characters, all the offspring or F_1 generation will be of a genetical constitution Bb, Dd, and will be self blacks. These will produce reproductive cells of four different types BD, Bd, bD, and bd which, when bred together, will give sixteen different

combinations—four different types being produced.

Out of every sixteen youngsters, nine will be similar to the F_1 parents and will be black, three will be similar to each of the grandparents and will be blue or brown, whilst one out of the sixteen will be a new colour—the double recessive—and will be lilac. Of the sixteen, however, only one of each class will, when mated to its like, breed true, and the exact genetical constitution of the other twelve could only be discovered by the appropriate breeding tests.

The greater the “factorial difference” the greater will have to be the number of youngsters bred in order to produce all types. Thus, in the case of a three-factor difference cross, sixty-four combinations are possible, and in the case of a four-factor difference cross, the number is 256. One point must be stressed most strongly: the figures of Mendelian ratios are expectations only, and these are usually realized very closely when large numbers are dealt with. The combinations being due to the chance meeting of sperms and ova, when small numbers only are being dealt with, the results may be very variable.

If one tosses a penny twice, the expectation is that once it may come down heads and once tails—but if this experiment is made, this ratio will be found to vary frequently if only done a small number of times, although the probability is that if done a thousand

times, the results will be very nearly 500 heads to 500 tails. Similarly, in the case of a two-factor difference cross, although the double recessive should appear just once amongst every sixteen youngsters, with good luck it might turn up in the first litter, or might not appear until twenty, thirty or even more youngsters have been bred.

One word of warning should be given. Crossing should not be undertaken too freely, as it always takes some generations to secure a desired type. Now, most varieties are available in sufficient numbers for selection and improvement to be made amongst individuals of the breed, rather than by producing it afresh by crossing which may—unless done with great care—bring in at least some undesirable recessive characters.

Interest in Lilacs

Earlier in this article mention was made of "lilac" in connection with the crossing of Havana with blue. This "colour" has the same relationship to chocolate that blue has to black. In other words, it is a Chocolate (Havana) carrying a double dose of the blue factor (dd). Of late, a few fanciers have shown interest in this "colour," and have taken up its cultivation. When "pure" stock is used, the cross will give all black youngsters. These mated *inter se* will produce on the average:—nine Black, three Blue, three Chocolate, one Lilac. Having established a strain, the breeder can employ one or other—or both—of the following outcrosses, should it be considered necessary. One is to cross-out to Chocolate, and the other is to cross with Blue. It is just possible that Blue cross will prove the more profitable.

The Lilac-Chocolate mating will produce Chocolate youngsters, which mated back to Lilac, may be expected to throw approximately equal numbers of Chocolates and Lilacs. The Lilac-Blue mating will be found to breed Blue youngsters

and these, mated back to Lilac will produce on an average equal numbers of Blues and Lilacs.

There is often surprise expressed that Chocolate and Blue should produce Blacks—it looks at first sight an unlikely result. However, it is not really so surprising when one appreciates that "blue" pigment and "chocolate" pigment are both modified forms of the same black pigment, melanin. "Blue" pigment is black pigment which looks blue because it has been broken up and clumped in a special way—on the microscopic scale, of course. This is purely a matter of appearance. Compare ground glass: it *looks* white, but you know perfectly well that glass is colourless and transparent, not white. "Chocolate" (i.e. Brown or Havana) pigment is the same basic melanin, but broken into lumps of a different size, which makes it look brown or chocolate.

The gene which controls the clumping of melanin to make it look blue is a recessive gene, that is to say it acts only when it is present in double dose, being received from *both* parents. Likewise the gene which modifies the melanin granular size and makes it look chocolate.

The easier way

When you mate say a Chocolate male to a Blue female, the offspring gets the chocolate gene from father only, but this gene has to be received from *both* parents if it is to make the pigment look Chocolate; the offspring therefore fails to get its coat "chocolated," i.e. the coat is the fundamental, unmodified colour, i.e. black. Likewise the offspring gets the blue gene from one parent only, mother; the gene cannot act unless it is present in double dose, so the coat is not "blued" either. The offspring therefore looks black.

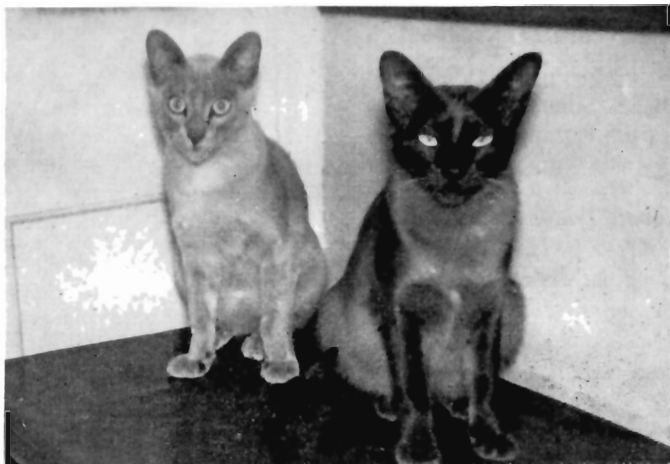
If on the other hand you mate two of the offspring together, they will give Blacks, Blues, Chocolates and Blue-

Chocolates (Lilacs) ; but they will not appear in equal numbers—only one in sixteen will be Lilac, three in sixteen will be Blue, and three in sixteen Chocolate.

If one wants to make a Lilac, there is a lot to be said for mating the Blues to the Chocolates instead of waiting for the (one in sixteen) Lilac. Many of the

Blues will carry the Chocolate gene in one dose ; many of the Chocolates will carry one dose of the Blue gene. Such pairs mated together should give one Lilac in four. It is thus easier to get a pair of Lilacs of opposite sexes and so perpetuate the strain.

(to be continued)



CONTRAST IN BURMESE

Our picture shows Mrs. R. M. Pocock's blue male LAMONT BLUE BURMABOY and brown female CH. SABLESILK MOUSE. The former, bred by Mrs. H. Waldo Lamb, comes from brown Burmese parents each presumably carrying the "blue" factor. He is by Lamont Patrick ex Ch. Chinki Golden Goddess. Mouse, who gave birth to five sturdy sons shortly after her photograph was taken, has done exceptionally well when shown. She also carries the "blue" factor and when mated to Kathoodu Kimi (Mrs. K. Hooper's brown stud at Tonbridge) she produces a percentage of blue kittens, the best known at the shows being Pussinboots Sapphire Bibi, who it is hoped will be one of Burmaboy's future wives, along with Pussinboots Blue Squirrel and others. Between them they may eventually help to produce the three generations necessary to establish a breed number for Blue Burmese.

Catmints

By CHARLES PENROSE.

ARE you a gardener as well as a cat lover? Then you will be interested, no doubt, in the catmints or nepetas which have such a particular fascination for cats that they will forsake all other garden plants for the joy of a bed of catmint to lie or play around in.

We started off with a couple of plants of *Nepeta Mussini*, the most widely grown catmint, and found it a delightful plant with its grey foliage and lavender-blue flowers. It is very useful as an edging for the herbaceous border. Our two plants grew into large specimens indeed, and in due course were divided up thus producing a further supply.

Dividing the plants, which must be done in the spring, is a simple matter. After lifting, divide the plant into small pieces which have young healthy roots and replant where desired. If the

MRS. G. GUBBY of 72 Woodside Road, South Norwood, London, S.E.25, owner of TRIDDLES the HOUSEHOLD PET OF THE YEAR, writes :—

“ My cat, Triddles, has been having KIT-ZYME for some months. I have found a considerable improvement in his general health and his coat is in marvellous condition.

On the 28th November, 1957, he won the ‘ News of the World ’ Perpetual Trophy for the Supreme Pet Feline of the Year at the National Cat Club Show.

Triddles really does love KIT-ZYME. In fact, he almost asks for his daily dose and would eat far more than his 3 Tablets a day.”



TRIDDLES

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young plants can be put into small pockets of a mixture of sand, peat and loam to enable them to settle down quickly so much the better. Some of the divisions we planted between paving stones of the garden path and others on top of a wall.

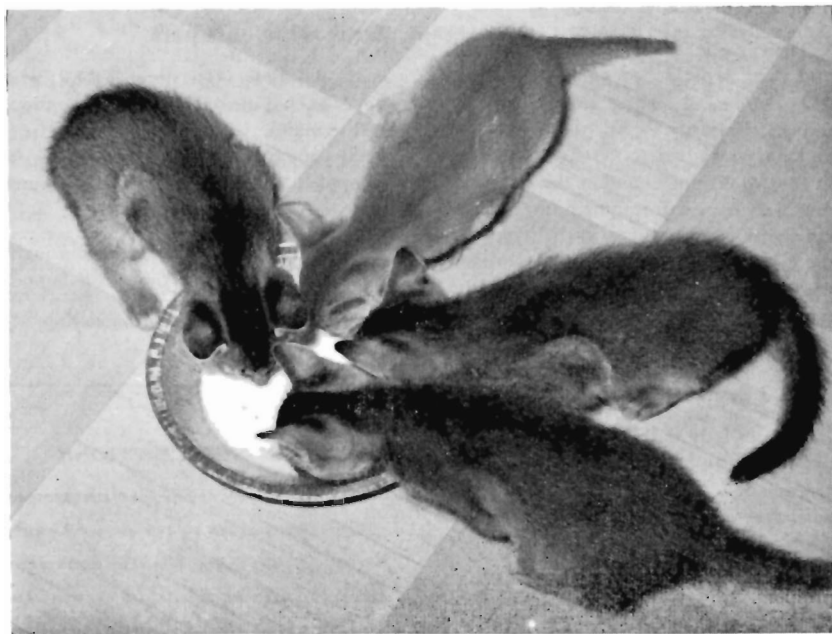
As this catmint has a long summer flowering period it was certainly an asset to the garden. However, you must remember if you want to enjoy the flowers for a long time to keep the faded ones cut back.

Besides *Mussini* there are other interesting varieties such as *N. mussini superba* which grows to a height of 3 feet and *N. nervosa* which is a dwarf growing only to a height of 15 inches. This latter variety has dense flower spikes of violet-blue from July to September.

Then there is the variety with the long name of *Souvenir d'Andre Chaubon*. It has large lavender-blue flowers and grows to a height of 18 inches.

The nepetas do not ask for any particular soil conditions and once established require the minimum of attention. They may need a little judicious trimming in the autumn. Never, however, cut them right down to ground level - this is a sure way to lose your catmint.

If you wish to raise your own plants, you can buy packets of seed. The seedlings can be raised in the open in the spring, or in gentle heat in a greenhouse earlier in the year. It is possible to buy seeds of *N. Cataria* which according to some experts is the true catmint, as this when bruised gives off a very strong scent.



Burlington Gazette

History is made! These four little kittens, happy over their dish of milk, are reported to be the first Abyssinians to be bred in Canada. Their mother is Chatwyn Taha of Chota-Li, imported from England after she had won a first at the 1956 Kensington Kitten Show, by Mrs. Edna Field, of Burlington, Ontario. Taha was mated to an American male and produced this litter (which includes a Red) in June last year. Mrs. Field, a real enthusiast for the breed, has since purchased a male from this country and a female from America. She writes: "There are now 15 Abyssinians established in or around Toronto and it is my hope and ambition (shared by six other Toronto breeders) to make this beautiful breed popular in Canada. Wherever they have been shown they have been enthusiastically received and admired."

Those in peril

By KIT WILSON

(Public Relations Officer to the Cats' Protection League)

BOMBED London is rising like a phoenix from the ashes. Steel and concrete, bricks and mortar buildings of modern design are replacing old fashioned and often insanitary houses and shops in densely populated areas.

Years before the war, the Drapers' Company built some attractive flats for their pensioners in the Elephant and Castle area. Even in these sordid surroundings, behind a high wall a garden blazed with colour, an oasis from the hurly burly outside.

Then came Hitler's savage attacks and all around became desolation, The Drapers' building stood firm but showed its scars. All the occupants had gone, save one. She refused to leave, as she would not abandon the cat waifs she had rescued from their fate. Year after year, with no glass in the windows, the wind whistling through the broken doors, and the rain coming through the roof, she remained and the cats enjoyed the security of the now overgrown garden. They alone did not know that the dreaded day was coming.

The old lady flatly refused to move to the cottage found for her by the Council, unless she could be assured that her pets were safe. She could keep two of them, but no more, and as she sat in her little room she tried to work out her problem.

A kindly officer of the Council had heard of the Cats' Protection League, and appealed to them for help. Headquarters agreed to do what they could; so on a blustery, rainy day in August, Johnnie, Beauty, Tibby, Patch, Whiskey and six others were placed in baskets

and taken away to be cared for by the League. The old lady had made her choice and kept two spayed females.

Just about that time an American cat magazine had published an appeal for used stamps, to be sold on behalf of the practical work of the League. Stamps came pouring in, and, thanks in great part to their sale, all but one one of the old lady's cats were boarded, spayed, and eventually placed in good homes.

One who escaped

At the time of writing, Tibby, who had a baby quite soon after her reception, still remains. The kitten is now in a good home but Tibby who has a crumpled ear, and a beautiful nature still waits. She too is spayed.

The appeal in the magazine brought a further appeal, this time in a famous

(Continued on page 35)

AMERICAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

We much regret the circumstances which compel us to raise our Yearly Subscription Rate for the Americas from \$3.25 to \$3.75 as from 1st April next. This increase becomes necessary to enable us to meet (a) the higher postal charges now operating and (b) the heavier commission required by the banks for the collection of dollar cheques.

— by *Blanche Wolfram*

MRS. MYRTLE K. SHIPE

MR. MYRTLE K. SHIPE is one of those individuals who take great delight in all she does. She is particularly active in her organization and has ever ready her hand to help benefit the needy. She is a member of the Detroit Cat Fanciers' Club, and is active in all the

in contact with the real aristocrats until she attended a cat show in 1936. Living near the Great Lakes, in Detroit, Michigan, most of her life, she decided in the following year to commence breeding activities and to name her cattery the Great Lakes Cattery. Being particularly attracted to the Black she made up her mind to to what result throughout the

Black

is one over every very large black male with deep copper eyes and a splendid sire with a marvellous disposition, who lived for sixteen years. Imp. Ch. Great Lakes Basildon Talisman was another of her fine Black males

Ch. Chadhurst Samson was still another of the fine breeding sires and he too, carried an excellent and sound coat. He had an exceptionally short, snub nose and a disposition above reproach.

Mrs. Shipe has always believed that one of her finest cats was Imp. Ch. Black Pearl of Takeley, a large female with a dense black coat and red copper eyes, bred by Mrs. T. C. Askew of London, England. It was very unfortunate that Pearl was lost at an early age due to leukæmia, but because of her great beauty other cats were subsequently purchased from Mrs. Askew.

To those interested in breeding top-grade stock Mrs. Shipe stresses the

to follow. It is very important to keep your cats healthy and happy and in order to do this, cleanliness, good food and plenty of freedom for exercise are essential."

Since 1948 Mrs. Shipe has been conducting a mail-order business offering to breeders some excellent equipment and medical supplies. She has not tried to sell anything she has not first used on her own cats. Each item that she sells is a worthwhile item and has proved its worth, over and over.

With all her activities she still finds time for a limited amount of breeding for she remains interested in providing novices with kittens from a great line



Imp. Ch. GREAT LAKES BASILDON TALISMAN

importance of dealing only with those breeders of established integrity and experience. If the novice does not know with whom to deal, he should make inquiries before entering into any transaction. "Purchase the best female you can find of the breed and color you prefer," advises Mrs. Shipe, "then mate that female with the best male obtainable of the same breed and color. This will result in your gaining good kittens and you will be on your way in the Fancy. The best female will not be cheap, but it is the cheapest method in the end for any newcomer

of cats, so that they may get a good start on the road to success. But it can be truly said that each new Great Lakes kitten that comes into this world is accompanied by fond memories of Samson and Pearl.

**"News From Down Under" ..
Mr. F. W. Pearce's report
from Australia will appear
as usual in next month's issue.**

Mice on the bookstall

By JOANNA MACKAY

"Anything interesting?" asked the Miaow.

"Mice," I said.

"Those are not mice," retorted the Miaow, "those are second-hand books. You pay for them. I get mice for nothing."

"I pay twelve and six a week for your supplies," I answered.

"For companionship and interest and first rate mousing ability. I did festoon the Blimperry with corpses last time I was there."

"We'll let it pass," I told the Miaow, "the fact is that second-hand book finds to me are what mice are to you. And these are cat books. For one thing, there's a vintage Oliver Herford, *The Rubá'iyát of a Persian Kitten*. There he is in wash drawings, not very pure bred, perhaps, with his white bib and rather long face, but a kitten in 1906. Up in the morning, for who wouldn't get up on being told

'Wake! for the Golden Cat has put to flight

The Mouse of Darkness with his Paw of light.'

(Your mistress might not at week-ends. Well, never mind!)

"And here he is spilling ink, sadder and wiser for being dealt with. 'We come like kittens and like cats we go.'

'And encountering the fierce, stray, derisive Tom, who just might call him a young pup. Up to every trick and sure that his nine lives will keep him from an awful fate.'

"Fascinating," purred the Miaow, "what's the other one?"

"Less kittenish and more comprehensive. It's *Concerning Cats*, by Helen M. Winslow, an American author, writing at the turn of the century."

"Meowt of date?"

"Not where love of cats is concerned. Of course, there are some odd, faded photos, a Siamese with broad chest and stocky legs, a 'genuine Russian cat' with patches of white, references to cat kennels (the term cattery only just beginning to be used), a statement that spaying is very dangerous. And that odd item, the Maltese cat comes in again and again. I really don't believe Maltese cats have ever existed, save in the imaginations of the Americans, but the mistake is forgivable.

"There are accounts of famous cats, particularly publishing office cats, of Theophile Gautier's cat family, of Louis Wain at the height of his powers and of the then dawning English Cat Fancy. The pro-British author speaks appreciatively of work being done.

"She also mentions a troop of performing cats—German this time—one of very few."

This hurts

"Where does the sad part come in?" asked the Miaow.

"There's a good bit about strays and about people who just turned their cats out, because they couldn't be bothered with them any longer. That hurts. There are accounts of the first cat shelters and efforts to rescue stray cats in America. I wonder if the Boston one is still running or if it's still needed?"

(Continued on page 18).

May Kittens

A Senseless Superstition

*"May chets bad luck begets
and sure to make dirty chets."*

So runs an old Huntingdonshire proverb that even to-day is widely believed in many country places.

When I stayed in Pembrokeshire last spring I discovered that this belief was strongly held and, indeed, I was viewed with some mistrust for my disbelief and I do not think I was able to convince many that it was wrong and totally unnecessary to drown all May kittens.

The prevalent belief is held in all Celtic districts that May kittens ought never to be reared because they bring snakes into the house, are dirty, and are "possessed of the devil." As a child I was taught to believe this, too, but I treasured every May kitten and hoped that not only would it bring me snakes, but bats and frogs and other creatures which I liked. I need hardly add I was disappointed; all that was brought in were mice or a baby rabbit!

Dragons and witches

The origin of this superstition can be traced through Celtic mythology. The first day of May was the day called *Baltaine*, sacred to *Bile*, the God of Death, and if anything uncanny took place it was sure to be on May Day. It was May eve when the two dragons fought and shrieked in the reign of King

Lludd; it was on "every first of May until the day of doom" that Gwyn, son of Nudd, fought with Gwyrth, son of Greidawl, for Lludd's fair daughter.

The witches are said to have arrived on the mountain tops by magical flights on cats and brooms, where they greeted the uprising of the sun gods. The first of May was held as a festival by the Druids, who kindled fires and offered sacrifices on the mountains to celebrate the revival of the earth from her slumbers. May Day was celebrated to even greater extent in many European countries and the cats were engaged in baskets and burned in hilltop fires.

There are four witches's Sabbaths, but May Day was the most important. May was a forbidden month for marriages and only "bad women" broke this rule, so it is easy to connect the Celtic superstition with the birth of a creature so closely linked with the unseen worlds of witchcraft as the cat. Ancient faith dies hard and consequently there still lingers in these country districts a distrust and dislike of the unfortunate May kitten.

Two of my own cats were born in May and sweeter, cleaner or more intelligent creatures it would be difficult to find. They never bring snakes or any other reptile into the house. *But perhaps this is because I was born on a witches's Sabbath—
Lammas Day!*

JOAN JUDD.



Purely Purrsonal

By IVOR RALEIGH

Being some impressions from "a looker-on" which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

MY last article resulted in fourteen letters, five telephone calls and several personal inquiries from female cat breeders all of whom wanted to know what I thought of the woman who bred both Siamese and Longhairs. I must confess that a question of this sort gives rise to many interesting possibilities, few of which lend themselves to adequate analysis, in print!

* * *

Modern education relies more and more upon a series of axioms or sayings, many of which appear to me to be unutterably stupid. Among these, the least justifiable is that "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

Were this true, the judging of cats would be far more unpredictable than it is; most judges manage to place exhibits in more or less the right order, a remarkable achievement when one considers the fact that a fair proportion of judges are appointed for reasons other than their knowledge or experience in the breeds they are chosen to judge. This appears to be particularly evident in the case of several recent appointments made by a certain specialist club.

To enlarge upon this theme, consider the case of the bulldog. With his slobbering mouth and perpetual snuffle no one could possibly call a bulldog beautiful; and yet, his wonderful nature evokes in the mind of those who

love him all those responses which we integrate in the general term love. Let me be clear by saying that no bulldog lover considers the object of his affection beautiful. The love response comes in reply to a far more valid and spiritually significant stimulus than mere beauty.

We are therefore justified in concluding that while sight may be regarded as an aid to the appreciation of beauty it can never be a determining factor. Beauty is a quality that is discernable with the mind alone. In fact, the eye is probably the least effective of our perception equipment and plays no part in the discernment of the higher forms of beauty. Any one who has listened to Beethoven's Mass in D or to the one or two other superlatively great musical compositions knows exactly what I mean.

* * *

Many of the different varieties of worm found in a cat's stomach and intestines reproduce by means of eggs. For this reason, when worming a cat remember to do so twice, with a fortnight's interval in between the doses. In general, worming is a dangerous practice other than at the hands of an experienced vet. Moreover, the danger of a small infestation is often exaggerated and worming should only be resorted to in cases of a major infestation or upon the advice of a professional expert.

* * *

A number of recent articles by experienced breeders have warned people

(continued from page 15).

against the untutored use of antibiotics and I feel it worth while to endorse some of the main points.

The groups of micro-organisms against which antibiotics are effective possess the faculty of adapting themselves in such a way as to resist the action of the drugs. More important still, once an organism has acquired this immunity, it is able to modify its inheritable characteristics so as to produce immune descendants. With this fact in mind, it is obvious why an inadequate dosage with say, penicillin, often makes a cat unresponsive to subsequent treatment.

Antibiotic drugs should only be given under the direction of a veterinary surgeon, who will give enough of the drug to kill all of the offending organism, thus leaving nothing which can breed an immune latter generation.

* * *



Wocky (died 1949)

We'll meet again my little cat
Where flowers never fade,
Where death and parting hold no sway,
Where sunbeams fill the glade.

We'll meet again my little cat
Where friendship blooms anew,
Where perfect life brings gentle joy,
Where softly falls the dew.

We'll meet again my little cat
Where lies no need to prove,
How tenderly we bear for you
The burden of our love.

"And the author says some odd things about cat temperament. She had a cat who fell in love with her and deserted devoted owners. The author took her to live somewhere else—but she vanished. Then there was the loving little cat, who suddenly ran wild in the forest, ignoring his distracted people and was found frozen to death in the bitter New England winter. I wonder if cats can go mental?"

"And there was something about eight hundred cats being put to death in an epidemic in Berne in 1809."

"I should have thought the Swiss had more sense."

"Well they have now, I'm sure. Anybody with any sense knows that you can get germs from all sorts of places besides cats."

"But leaving the sad passages out—and Helen Winslow's love for cats has been well mixed with heartache—there's something pathetic about those gentle, interested cat faces of a long time ago. Not a cat shown in the book can be still alive and I wonder if many of the humans are?"

"Does it matter?" asked the Miaow.

"Do you think it does?" I asked, "I've often wondered if cats have any historical sense whatever."

"That," said the Miaow firmly, "is one of the many things we don't tell you. You can try and think it out for yourself, while I have a little more rabbit and the gas turned up please."

According to the *Daily Express* Science Reporter, two Bristol veterinary surgeons after examining 100 cats discovered that 26 were suffering from slipped discs, the painful spinal disorder which causes a great amount of human backache. Dr. King, one of the surgeons, made the point that it is hard to know how much pain cats endure.



Tailpieces

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



SEAL POINT SIAMESE named Rikki have been making the headlines recently. First, there was the Rikki who was imprisoned in a loft in a North London house for 30 days before he was discovered and nursed back to health. The second Rikki (a queen this time) was also an absentee who caused a lot of heartaches. Whilst on the way to New Zealand from Orpington, Kent, with the family of Rawsons, she escaped. Her fare of £25 had been paid. Two weeks later she was found in the streets of Orpington by R.S.P.C.A. Inspector Coles who took Rikki Number Two to his home at Bromley while a new passage was arranged with the shipping line. Little five-year-old Gaynor, the Inspector's daughter, was much distressed when she became aware of the truth that her newly-found playmate was really a reluctant emigrant.

A gripping account of a black cat's fight to the death with a cobra comes from Singapore. The cat was protecting her kittens and for 20 minutes she fought fiercely against the sinuous strength of the 4 ft. snake. When she released her grip of the snake for a fraction to take a more deadly grip just behind the snake's head, the cobra struck and sank its fangs into the back of the cat. The fight ended in death for both.

A note from a Canadian correspondent tells me that Mrs. Ann Borrett, of Chestermere Cattery, Calgary, Alberta, has imported two more Colourpoint Longhairs (or Himalayans, as they are

styled in the Americas). They are Briarry Sar Neerah and Chatelaine Al Hakim, a young pair exported by Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb, and their journey of 6,000 miles was accomplished safely in 2½ days. Calgary, with its 180,000 inhabitants, obviously intends to lead the rest of North America in feline fashions.

A worried woman who presented herself and a sick cat at a Birmingham animal clinic said that she thought her pet had swallowed something. An examination confirmed her suspicions, so off the pair were sent to a local veterinary surgeon. An operation was performed and the cause of the trouble was found to be a 10 inch plastic knitting needle. The cat recovered and the needle is being preserved as a curiosity in the archives of the clinic.

Journals recently received and read with interest include *Bulletin No. 10* (December, 1957) of the South African Cat Union, edited by Mrs. Violet Dawson Clovelly, Cape. Most space is given to the year's registrations which cannot be other than an encouraging sign that membership is growing. I was particularly interested in the account of the Siamese queen belonging to Dr. M. J. Tidbury of Kimberley, who is adept at turning door handles. I am hoping that it may be possible to get a picture of this clever one for the Magazine. *Cats Digest*—the monthly journal of the Federal Cat Club of Australasia—has also come to hand. This January issue is the first under the new editorship of Mrs. H. Scognamillo and Miss A. Vale.

During 1957, the Club increased its membership, ran two successful shows in conjunction with the Australian Red Cross Society and raised its bank balance from 17s. 2d. to over £100. Congratulations !

Ginger, the pet cat of Mrs. Betty Rees, has been persuaded to call a halt to his mouse hunting activities in St. Mary's Church, Aberavon, South Wales. For two weeks he had deserted his home to live inside the church and even the loudest notes were insufficient to dislodge him when he took refuge on the top of the organ during services.

Looking Back, the memoirs of the Duke of Sutherland, K.T. (Odhams, 25s.), contains an interesting account of the arrival at his Sutherland home of Winston Churchill, then about twenty-five years of age. The young Churchill was the proud owner of a small red 10 h.p. Mors car, "driven in a most dangerous fashion by a French chauffeur." The Duke and his mother were persuaded to take a short tour to the coast. He then proceeds to describe the adventurous journey. They went so fast over one humped-back bridge that the car literally leapt into the air and bounced. "I was thrown forward and cut my chin, and my tame cat, which then accompanied me everywhere, was shot on to the moor in its closed basket, but luckily was unhurt."

Members of Ipswich Animal Welfare Committee are patrolling the streets of their town at night on the look-out for a gang believed to have stolen 100 cats in a week.

The caretaker of a London West End store has recently been relieved of a problem. A handful of cats under his care steadily increased over the months to more than 50 and at this point the local Public Health Department stepped in. The final act of rescue was undertaken by the P.D.S.A., who are hoping to find good homes for most of the displaced animals.

The current issue of *The Animal World*, the official magazine of the R.S.P.C.A., reveals the distressing fact that 105 young people under the age of 18 were convicted of cruelty to animals during 1957. It may appear to some that this is not a particularly high figure when one considers the size of our juvenile population but there are two important facts to bear in mind. One is that the Society proceeds against children with the utmost reluctance, preferring to advise, admonish or encourage a parental rebuke, and that therefore a great number of cruelty cases never reach the courts. The other point is that in contrast with the prosecutions taken against adults, whose crime generally is that of neglect, the offences committed by children of to-day are

All Cat lovers are cordially invited to the
5th EXHIBITION of CAT DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS

by EVELYN F. COOTE LAKE, A.R.M.S., F.Z.S.
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Sats. 10 - 1

usually of a vicious and violent nature. During 1957, over a thousand schools were visited by R.S.P.C.A. lecturers in furtherance of the Society's policy of education on animal care for the young.

Sir Malcolm Sargent, our eminent musical conductor, has accepted the Presidency of the R.S.P.C.A. in succession to the late Professor Gilbert Murray. Sir Malcolm has been a Vice-President since 1949.

Mr. Keith Bailey, of Bexleyheath, Kent, was aroused from his sleep early one morning by his cat. He found that burning soot had set fire to the floorboards.

A 60-year-old widow, Mrs. Eve Cowey, of Stoke Newington, North London, lost her life in a brave attempt to rescue her pets—a cat, three dogs and a

budgerigar—from a fire which swept through her home. She died beside them in a ground floor room when falling debris cut off her escape. Neighbours, who tried to help but were prevented by the fierceness of the blaze, said that Mrs. Cowey's whole world revolved round her pets.

That newsy little item about cats you have read in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down . . . will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope? Cuttings from overseas publications are particularly welcome, but senders should bear in mind that we cannot reproduce direct from pictures in newspapers and journals. Original photographs are necessary. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

MICKEY

To fanciers overseas . . .

Panel advertisements in our DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS (Longhair and Shorthair sections) are not confined to members of the English Fancy. Indeed, we shall be only too pleased to see the Directory develop along truly international lines. The largest bookable space is a double panel (either down or across the page) and all announcements must conform to our usual typeset style. Full details of rates, etc., will be gladly supplied on request to any of our friends overseas.

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These brooches are made by a world renowned firm of specialists in costume jewellery. They are of fine quality with plain back, fitted with joint pin and catch. Prices include purchase tax and postage.

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NINE LIVELY LIVES!

"Talk about a Tibsical tray-load!" said Tibby, the Tibs reporter, "these nine make their father, Pikha Shah Jehan, purr with pride!"

Mrs. Vincent has moved her famous cattery from Woking to 'Noumena' in Broadwas-on-Terne in Worcestershire. And Pikha Shah Jehan, that great gentleman from Siam, has gone with her. The litter above owed much, too, to their mother, Queen Mumtaz. And today they all owe a great deal to Tibs. Mrs. Vincent says Tibs is a 'must' . . . one tablet a day for every cat after weaning age. Good bones, good teeth, good condition, shining coat . . . and sheer Tibsical energy from morning to night!



*Famous
breeders
say:*

TIBS KEEP CATS TIBSICAL



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

MRS. 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.

A happy show

THE Surrey and Sussex Cat Association are to be congratulated on finding such a fine hall for their Show as the Municipal Baths at Epsom, Surrey. It was a rare treat to see every exhibit in a really good light. Even if the hall had been full they still would have been in daylight as it came from the roof and windows low down above a shallow gallery.

There is often a light-hearted air about a non-Championship show and this was no exception. It was enjoyable from the word Go! Many of the exhibits were up to Championship show standard. Mrs. Chapman was the Show Manager and although she had plenty to do she was all smiles and amiability.

Main awards were: Best Longhair Cat Miss Sherlock's Orange-eyed White

Bircotte Nanette by Bircotte Giftocrissa; Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Chapman's Chinchilla Loraine of Allington by Ch. Laurel of Allington; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Bigg's Red Tabby Asplin Easter Bonny by Ch. Hendon Puck; Best S.H. Cat—Miss Johnson's Blue British Jezreel Jake by Ch. Minswyck Blue Prince; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Clarke's Chocolate Point Siamese Craigiehilloch Chorita; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Moore's Black Asplin Othello by Ch. Barwell Pedro. Othello is a very lovely jet black with exceptional type and remarkably lovely eyes for size and depth of colour. He was much too good to neuter but when he was a kitten no one came along who wanted him as a stud so Mrs. Moore, his breeder and President of the Association, kept him for a pet. Only just over nine months on Show day, he is destined to do some winning if all goes well with him. His breeding is interesting as he is from a L.H. Red Tabby sire and a Tortie-and-White L.H. dam Ch. Asplin Jessica. Yet Othello is a really short Shorthair.

Mrs. Grace Pond was awarded Best Blue Adult with Blucstar Sweet Fragrance, by Myowne Caesar, the latter bred by Mrs. Vize (Australia) and now owned by Mrs. E. Aitken who also exhibited Broughton Marvo, Best Cream Adult. Mrs. Worsley was first in Any Colour Siamese Male with Silken Wily Reynard by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy, and Mrs. Clarke in Siamese Females with Craigiehilloch Minta by Ch. Killdown Sultan.

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that even the sick cat
can rapidly digest



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on application to
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WHETHER in real illness, or when a cat is just "off colour," Brand's Essence is the ideal strengthener. Cats will often take a teaspoonful when they refuse everything else. It provides the cat with the valuable meat protein it needs. And being "pre-digested" Brand's Essence is rapidly absorbed without any strain on the system. It contains no added salt or preservative—cannot possibly irritate.

Whenever extra nourishment is indicated there's nothing better than Brand's Essence

As a nourishing stimulant at show-time or whenever the cat is subjected to strain; to build up the mother-cat; and as additional feeding for the kittens themselves from the age of three weeks, there's nothing better—or more acceptable—than Brand's Essence. And it's a rapid general conditioner.

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Mrs. Bigg's Red Tabby neuter Asplin Easter Bonny was rich in coat and eye colour and excellent in type, and another very good neuter was Mrs. Haynes's S.P. Siamese Siamic Sooty Boy who won well under all judges.

The gate was excellent and as Epsom and its environs are very pleasant localities the Surrey and Sussex Cat Association could not do better for a February show. Several breeders told me they would have exhibited had the interval been longer after the S.C.C.C. Ch. Show in late January.

Some well known personalities made a welcome visit as spectators—Mr. and Mrs. Brunton, Mr. and Mrs. Dunks (all the way from Reading), Mr. and Mrs. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. King, Mrs. Ross and later Mr. Hughes. Mrs. Hughes acted as my steward and added much to a happy day. In March their only daughter Greta is marrying so they have a busy time ahead as she is to have a "big" wedding at Forest Row, Sussex.

Spoiled by blizzard

The Ch. Show of the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club on February 8th at Wigan, Lancashire, unfortunately coincided with a blizzard. We arrived late on the eve of the Show to find inches of snow and an air of desolation which so often goes with the bad weather in industrial centres. There were many empty pens and late arrivals the next day, some alas, too late to compete in their Open Class.

It was all very disappointing for Mrs. Brittlebank, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Club and her Committee, who had worked so hard for its success and who have had such difficulty in finding a suitable hall since the excellent Corn Exchange at Manchester has not been available for cat shows. The judges and exhibitors returning to London were kindly allowed to leave at 3.30 p.m. to catch

the last train which would ensure most of us getting home that night. However, we found at the end of our journey a sparkling evening with all traces of snow gone. The early departure meant no pleasant little chats with exhibitors and no time to explain the whys and wherefores of one's awards if they were asked for.

In spite of the weather there were some lovely exhibits present and the principal awards were: Best Longhair Cat—Mr. Leving's Smoke female Treetops Zephyr by Ch. Bircotte Nono; Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Wright's Blue-Cream Heather Bleu by Boy Blue of Kenton; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Johnson's Blue Deebank Noel by Bennavon Laddie; Best Shorthair Cat—Mrs. K. R. Williams' S.P. Siamese Bluebridge Hilary by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Wridgway's S.P. Siamese Beaumanor Petrina by Petersogai; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Digney's S.P. Siamese Premier Quantocks Petroc by Ch. Morris Tudor.

The entry of over 200 pedigree exhibits was an excellent one and if all had been present it would have been a fine show. In addition there were 24 household pets. Miss Kit Wilson was in her element judging these in addition to acting as referee judge.

Congratulations to Mrs. E. M. Denton on Thiepval Enchanter (her Blue male by Ch. Thiepval Paragon) completing his Championship and to Mrs. Brittlebank on Mandy of Allington (her Chinchilla female by Ch. Laurel of Allington) attaining her final Certificate.

A very lovely pair of exhibits were Miss Marjorie Bull's Orange-eyed White L.H. litter sisters, Ch. Deebank Wild Rose and Ch. Deebank Marguerite. My choice was Marguerite; although her coat was not quite so long as her sisters. She excelled in type and above all, that is a quality which endures and is a joy all the year. Wild Rose is lovely too and the quality and purity of

her coat beautiful. The mother of these two, Dalmond Spring Song (bred by Mrs. Dallison, of Canterbury) completed a trio which were outstanding.

A very welcome newcomer (to me) was Mrs. Jones' exceptionally good Black kitten Pearlbrook Louie by the same sire, Miss Bull's Blue male Vigilant Mark. He is one of the best Black kittens I have seen for some time and such a fine well grown fellow. Another lovely well grown kitten was owned by Mrs. D. Fisher, a Blue female Bluemine Melissa by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. She and Heather Bleu received an equal number of votes for Best L.H. Kitten and by the casting vote of the referee judge Heather Bleu received the award.

Miss Bull's Cream male Ch. Beamsley Sunbeam was Best Cream Adult, and she also won with kittens. She told me later that she and her companion Mary literally dug their way into their garage in the very early morning and "slid" from Cheshire to Wigan. Mrs. Taylor was very disappointed not to be present with her Blue male Boy Blue of Kenton who won so well in London in January.

The fellow exhibitor who arranged to take her was delayed so much digging his car out of the snow it was too late to call for her, and incidentally she got up at 3 a.m. and did not know until much later that she would not be going!

One of the loveliest Shorthair exhibits I handled was Mrs. Thake's Silver Tabby Ch. Silverseal Pussy Willow presented in perfect condition. Mr. Butterfield's Red Tabby Manx Ch. Goldsbrough Marvel was a fine fellow and the winning S.P. Siamese male Mrs. Dadd's Killdown Kerry has been another outstanding winner this season and was one of the adult Shorthairs brought out for Best in Show. Congratulations to Mrs. Watson on her Burmese male Darsham Khudiram (U.S.A. import) becoming a Champion. Born in September, 1956, he should be a great asset to the breed in this country.

A good year

The Chairman, Mrs. Price, had a successful year to report to the members of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club at the Annual General Meeting at the



L. Britton

The Three Counties Cat Society recently held their first meeting at Fordingbridge, Hampshire. There were no judges and personality contests—for the most beautiful, the daintiest, the most unusual cat, the cat with the most appealing eyes, the cat looking most like its owner, etc.—were decided by popular vote. Our photograph shows the three finalists in the Most Popular Cat Contest. In the centre, Mrs. Butler holds her daughter Susan whose tabby Willy Can was placed first. On the left, Mrs. C. F. Cade, Chairman of the Society, congratulates Mrs. Stone, second prizewinner and on the right Mrs. M. A. Wilson, Hon. Secretary, appears with the third prizewinner, Mrs. Dallimore.

Kenilworth Hotel, London, on February 19th. The Ch. Show last September was a financial success and the most profitable one to date. The publicity was excellent and a presentation was made to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Statman, in recognition of her services.

Whilst appreciating this fact, however, one must not overlook that by far the major part of the revenue for this Show came from the breeders themselves who contributed no less than £442 in entry fees, £41 in penning fees and £51 in advertising in the show catalogue. These same breeders of course would have also made a considerable contribution towards the gate receipts and sale of catalogues. Perhaps only cat breeders can appreciate the amount of work, although it may be a labour of love, entailed in breeding the exhibits which are presented at our shows.

Two vacancies occurred on the Committee and were filled by Mrs. McVady of Edgware, Middlesex, and Mrs.

Chappell of Uxbridge: appointments which met with general approval. Mrs. Price, who has served the Club so well since its inception, was re-elected delegate to the Governing Council.

The 1958 Ch. Show will be at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, September 6th. I have not visited this hall but it is ideally situated for exhibitors and judges to get to from any London termini by bus, underground or taxi and this should also ensure a good gate. Mrs. Towe has kindly agreed to organize it and appreciation was expressed for her past services. We may be sure Mr. Towe will be a tower of strength behind the scenes. We certainly owe much to them both for all their work for shows since 1946.

Shows are the very backbone of our Fancy and without them we can be sure our cats would not have reached their present state of near perfection in some breeds.

A proposal that there should be five

Is this boredom or a meal-time appeal? Only TARQUIN OF THAME can supply the answer.

He is one of the many fine Chinchillas bred by Mrs. Helen McLeod, of Steyning, Sussex.



Longhair judges on the panel for Best in Show instead of three, and the same for Shorthairs was put to the vote and carried by a large majority. It is obviously the fairest way for exhibitors and exhibits; although so little divides many of the lovely cats and kittens which are nominated for the top award.

A consensus of the opinion of five is better than that of three in the majority of cases. This brings the Herts and Middlesex into line with the National Cat Club, the Southern Counties, and the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club, all of which hold London shows.

The proposal is not practicable for provincial shows, as usually their entries are smaller and they seldom have five judges for Longhair exhibits and five for Shorthairs with sufficient experience of all varieties to adjudicate for an award of such major importance.

Rising show expenses

The A.G.M. of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club at Stewart's Restaurant, Victoria, on February 26th had an exceptional attendance.

The account for the July, 1957, Show is an indication of the enormous cost of organizing an All Breed London Show and how the increasing numbers of breeders and exhibitors since the first post-war Championship Show in November, 1945, have made it possible for clubs to meet their bills and usually turn in a profit from the shows. Items like £320 prize money, £170 printing and stationery, £94 hire of hall, are really "something."

Much appreciation is due to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Aitken, for all her work in this capacity and as Show Manager last July. The 1958 Show at the R.H.S. Hall at Westminster on August 6th is being organized this year by Mr. Kirby Smith of Sidcup, as Mr. Aitken will be acting as tutor to his daughter Janet who is taking important

exams. in July and Mrs. Aitken considers a peaceful home not disrupted by hectic show preparations essential in the special circumstances. Here's wishing Mr. Kirby-Smith every success.

The postal ballot resulted in Mrs. Aitken and Mrs. Grace Pond being elected to represent the K. K. and N.C.C. on the Governing Council and Mr. Kirby-Smith was elected to the Committee. The proposition that "no member of the Club who already holds an official position in more than two affiliated cat clubs shall be eligible for election as a member of the Committee or to any other official position in the Club" failed to secure the necessary two-thirds majority. Personally, I am not in favour of any club imposing this restriction on its members as, in my opinion, they should be free to propose whoever they wish. It is obvious that no one will secure sufficient votes if the majority are not in favour of the nominee.

News of exports

Mrs. Lord of Buena Park, California, U.S.A., is delighted with the two kittens which Miss Langston has sent—Alaric of Allington, a Blue by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax and Fleuritte of Allington, a Chinchilla—and writes very enthusiastically about them.

Another export to U.S.A. is Chadhurst Raven a Black bred by Miss Rodda. His new owner Donna Wendel writes:

"I am very pleased with him. When I took him out of his crate he just snuggled up and started purring. I guess he was so glad to see some one friendly and he's been like that ever since. I went to Idlewild Airport (New York) at 7.30 a.m. to meet him but it was so foggy the plane could not land. He eventually landed at Baltimore, Maryland, and finally came back to Idlewild at 5 p.m. By the time cargo was unloaded and he passed through customs it was 7 p.m."

After this diversion it was reassuring to hear from Miss Rodda that Raven was fit and well. Her lovely Tortoiseshell Ch. Chadhurst Juliet passed away suddenly at Christmas aged nearly twelve years. Juliet excelled in type and quality and will be sadly missed.

Mrs. Rowena Ross's Cream male Hathaway Antony Roly was Best Cream Adult at the South Western Counties Cat Club Ch. Show at Bristol. He is one of the few surviving grandsons of Ch. Mischief of Bredon.

FAIR EXCHANGE

I WROTE a little cheque, but money cannot buy

The things that bring content.

I gave my heart as well ; and maybe that is why

My cheque was so well spent.

For with my cheque (and heart!) I bought a Siamese ;

And only they will see

Whose love is pledged to cats and kittens such as these

What joy has come to me !

FREDA CARVER



R. H. Harper.

Mrs. Irene Powell, owner of the well-known Chatami Cattery, Idaho, U.S.A., was All-Breed Judge at the highly successful Calgary Cat Club Show last year. The Russian Blue she is holding is Champion Shermax Felkinkie, who travelled all the way from Washington to Calgary and back with his owners Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Arps just to appear "for exhibition only."

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Black, Cream and Blue-Cream Persians

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Fee for all MYOWNE CAESAR (Blue)
studs 2½ gns. BROUGHTON MARVO (Cream
and expenses

Pedigree kittens usually for sale

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Twice Best in Show and sire of 2 Int. Champions
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Twice Best in Show

Queens : CH. FAYEDOLLY DE BOIS CLARY (Best in
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SUMMERLEY, BURTONS WAY,
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Little Chalfont 2295

will have for sale a few beautiful RED
TABBY, CREAM and BLUE CREAM
KITTENS excelling in type and sweet
temperament.

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Kittens of outstanding quality usually for sale

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At Stud : FLAGSHIP de PADIRAC

Son of INT. CH. YEWHATCH ANSON
and INT. CH. WILD VIOLET OF DUNESK

Kittens from WINSOME OF DUNESK sometimes
available

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PERSIANS

Strong, well bred kittens with excellent tempera-
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CH. PURRING TOM KITTEN (S.T.) Fee £2 12s. 6d.
HENDRAS PERIVALE (CREAM) Fee £3 3s. 0d.

Queens : Ch. Purring Gentle Faith (S.T.); Ch.
Purring Hazel (B.T.); Barwell Roan
(Tortie); Aspin Phoebe (Tortie & White).

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Queens met at Gerrards Cross Station

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Cream, Blue, Blue-Cream

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Sire of Ch. Lisblanc Azalea, Ch. Lisblanc
Adonis and many other lovely cats.

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At Stud: **JAMIE OF THAME**

Excels in colour, type & glorious eyes

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Kittens noted for type, lovely pale

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Blue kittens
have such winning
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AT STUD:

Ch. BARWELL PEDRO
(Eight Challenge Certificates)

Ch. HENDON PUCK

(Best of Breed, Croydon, National, Southern &
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Brilliant copper red, beautiful eye colour. To
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Prize winners every time shown

Latest out **BONAVIA MARIETTA**, Best Female Chin. Kit.
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Bred by

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Pure bred kittens, healthy and most fascinat-
ing, usually available in the spring to very
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Excel in Type

Queen: **BAYHORNE KAREN**

Daughter of Ch. Baralan Boy Blue and Uplands Blue
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Cream, Blue & Blue-Cream

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(Cream Grandson of Ch. Mischief of Bredon)

Kittens from **BAYHORNE SHEENA**
sometimes available

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Blue Eyed White Persians

Blue Persians

BLANCHE WOLFRAM

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For SEAL and BLUE POINT SIAMESE

At Stud : CH. PRISTINE BANDOOLA (B.P.)

(Sire of 6 Champions)

Fee : 3 guineas & carriage

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Fee : 2½ guineas & carriage

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Seal Pointed and Blue Pointed

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Breeders of Best Shorthaired Kitten National C.C. Show 1955. Best B.P. Male Kitten Siamese C.C. Show 1957.

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Best Exhibit Siamese Cat Club Show 1955.

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Best S.H. Kitten Kentish Show 1957. Best Siamese Kitten Kensington Show 1957.

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CH. FA-YING. Lovely eye colour, light coat,
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WENVOE CHANTHRA. Sire Inwood Willow,
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Kittens from these queens for pets or breeding. Im-
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At Stud : GRACEDIEU LU-AN (S.P.)

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of Seal Point Siamese
for Type and Temperament

At Stud : HADEN RITTEE

Prizewinner siring lovely kittens

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Healthy house-reared kittens
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Blue Point, Lilac Point and Seal Point
Siamese and Self Lavenders

Excel as pets

Bred for stamina from prizewinning stock

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Noted for type and brilliant eye colour

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Breeder of Ch. Prestwick Mata-Biru, Ch. Prestwick
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CHOCOLATE POINTED SIAMESE

Good eye colour and type. Gentle tempera-
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Queen : KILLDOWN SORAYA

Her progeny have won many 1sts. and other prizes
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Kittens sometimes available

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British Blue, Blue-Cream, Blue
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Country bred under modern conditions; every attention is given to rearing healthy kittens. **CROSSWAYS HEIDI**, Best Havana Kitten, K.K. & N.C.C. and W. of E. & S.W.C.S. Shows 1957, and winner of 8 first prizes. Beautiful type, colouring and sweetest nature, is booking kittens now for next season. Also C.P. Siamese sometimes for sale.

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Sire: **CH. SLADES CROSS SHAHID**
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Indoor conditions. Queens met at East Croydon
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Best Shorthair Adult Coventry & Leics. 1956

CH. CAMLEY FUDGE (C.P.)

1st & Ch. Herts & Middlesex C.C. Show
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The Show successes of this pair, and their
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Fee £3-3-0

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Fees 2 gns. each & carriage

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At Stud : CH. KILLDOWN SULTAN (S.P.)

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At Stud : BRADGATE SHANDY

Sire : Bluehays Foxy — Dam : Beaumanor Patsy

Fee 2 gns. and carriage

Queens met at Dumfries or Lockerbie

Kittens sometimes available

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S.P. SIAMESE STUDS : MILORI LINKO and CH. MILORI OBERON. Both siring kittens of gentle disposition with good type, eye colour and coat texture. Both have sired many prizewinners including Best in Show awards at Championship shows.

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Kittens sometimes available from Ch. MILORI LILI (sister of Linko).

Queens, who are carefully looked after, met at any N. Midland station. Direct trains from London, Bournemouth, Bristol, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Exeter.

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Have a world-wide reputation for Gentle Temperament, Eye Colour and Type

At Stud : CHAMPION BLUEHAYES FOXY

Fine boned male, lovely eye colour, pale coat. Best S.H. at Coronation and Herts and Middx. Shows 1953. Winner of 17 First Prizes and over 20 Specials.

Queens met at London Termini by arrangement

Also SALEWHEEL SIMKIN

Sire of Best Male S.C.C.C. 1953, Best Litter 1950, Best S.H. Kitten Scottish C.C. 1952 and Best Exhibit Edinburgh and E. of Scotland C.C. 1954.

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- ★ Best Longhair Kitten—Croydon Ch. Show, 1955.
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- ★ Best of Breed—Nat. C.C. Ch. Show, Olympia, 1956.
- ★ Many Special Awards for Eye Colour.
- ★ VIRILE, PALE COATED SIRE OF CONSISTENT OPEN CLASS WINNERS.

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Sire : Ch. Clonlost Yo-Yo Dam : Mallington Magic

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- ★ Sire of Best S.H. Kitten Nat. Ch. Show, 1955
- ★ Consistent Sire of prize-winning kittens.
- ★ Winner of over 30 high awards.
- ★ Winner of Special for Gentlest Stud.

FEE £3 3s. 0d. AND EXPENSES

MR. & MRS. I. RALEIGH
"THE GABLES," TAMWORTH LANE, MITCHAM, SURREY
MITcham 2323

THOSE IN PERIL

(continued from page 12)

New York daily. More stamps poured in and are still doing so. Their sale will help to save four lovely kittens whose mother writes by courtesy of a human friend :

" I was born in the grounds of a film studio, and my life has been spent among a mass of wood, stone and unwanted scenery, together with many like me, quite wild. One day, looking for warmth and shelter, I braved jumping over a fence. There to my surprise I found a hut with nice clean straw, and dishes of food placed down. I ate well and spent a cosy night. In the morning I heard someone about and fled, but I returned at night and again had a good meal. Growing sleek and fat I decided to raise a family. I had them under the shed, and would not let anyone come near them, but I still went to get my food when all was quiet.

" Then I thought, I couldn't let my family live the same life as I was living, so deciding that the woman who fed us was

kind, I took my boys one by one and put them in her kitchen, having found the window open. Then I left them as I would not go near if anyone was about. The window was always open so as they were only about a month old I went in nightly to feed them. When they got too old and could fend for themselves I said good-bye to them and returned to my jungle, only coming into the garden to feed. I did sometimes venture on to the window-sill to peep in and see how my sons were doing. They are now big and strong, house trained and very cuddly and tame. Won't somebody please adopt them ?

Thinking of **???**
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Specializing in making individual selections of English show winners for overseas breeders.

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SANDY PANDY

A Longhair Red Tabby with an unusual career. Rescued from being put down by the local S.S.P.C.A. officer, he was adopted by Mrs. McNish, of Kirkcudbright. Shown at Castle Douglas Exemption Show, he was adjudged Best Household Pet and the judge, Mrs. M. Bastow, suggested he would do well in higher circles. So Pandy was duly registered and at the Scottish C.C. Show last month he was a first prizewinner.



Galloway News Photo

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

At Stud

SAYAM KUBLAI KHAN, sire Champion Killdown Sultan. Fee 2 gns. and return carriage. Main line Victoria trains met.—Nurse Redfern, Yew Tree Farm, Buxted, Sussex.

CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT TROUBADOUR (sire Bynes Romeo, dam Patwyn Tricini) and **CHAMPION CLONLOST YO-YO** (sire Doneraile Dekho, dam Foxburrow Rur+u). Fee for both £3 3s. 0d. and return carri ge. Also the lovely young male **SPOTLIGHT MELCHOIR**, winner of 25 First Prizes. Fee £2 2s. 0d. and return carriage.—Richard Warner, Little Foxes, Bayleys Hill, Sevenoaks Kent. Phone : Sevenoaks 4516.

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SHORTAIRED SILVER TABBY Female in kitten to winning tom. Excellent mother, gentle temperament, good mouser, house-trained. To kind country home only—Write Box 66, **OUR CATS Magazine**, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

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FIRST LITTER, One Male, Three Female Siamese S.P. (sire Dalai Jakki, All American '55, '56, '57, Triple Grand and Quadruple Champion, dam Sheba of JoMay).—Lt. and Mrs. R. B. May, I.R.C.H.A., C.A.P.O. 5050, Soest, Germany.

LITTERS DUE APRIL. Ch. Hendras Cassandra (Cream), mated Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and daughter Panache Colombine (Cream) mated Ch. Bayhorne Adam.—Consult Directory : Panache Persians.

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INSURE YOUR CAT! Full cover includes death from any cause. Veterinary expenses, loss by theft, etc. Reasonable premiums. Write for Free Brochure.—**CANINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LTD.**, 90 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.; 58 Rankin Drive, Edinburgh 9. (Established over a quarter of a century.)

To Fanciers! For good results you should advertise your Studs and Stock through the medium of this page. Please see above for details of rates, etc. An advertiser writes: "I was very pleased with the results of my last advertisement. I sold one of my kittens to an American faucier."

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AT LOW KNAP Siamese cats are boarded in ideal conditions and cared for by Dr and Mrs. Francis who love and understand them. Prospectus and photographs on application. Halstock, nr. Yeovil.

A FEW NICE CATS taken as Paying Guests. Siamese welfare thoroughly understood. Expert, affectionate care.—Mrs. H. S. Hopkins, Orchard End, Clevedon. Tel. 3503.

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SPECIAL OFFER. To clear, 6 copies only, "Complete Book of Cat Care" (L. F. Witney) 284 pages, hundreds of photos and illustrations, 19s. 6d. each, inc. postage.—Hobson, 344 Topsham Road, Exeter.

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THE TAIL-WAGGER MAGAZINE, the monthly British Dog Magazine—and for Other Pets too! Fully illustrated, complete with informative features and instructive articles.

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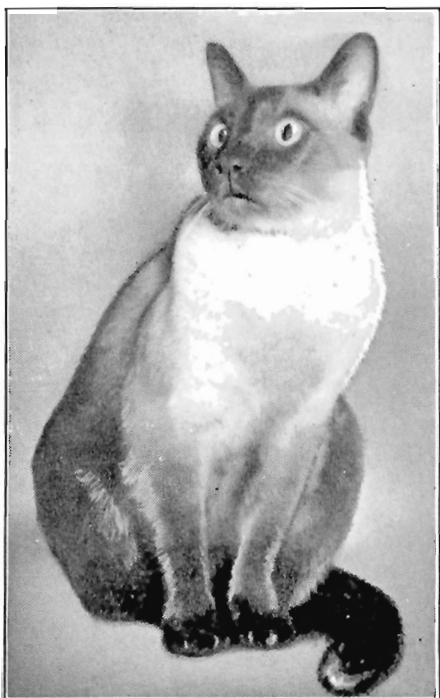
MR. PIMM

MRS. J. CATT of Flat 296,
Park West, Marble Arch,
London, W.2, writes :—

" I thought you would like to see this recent photograph of my darling Mr. Pimm. In 1952 you featured him in one of your advertisements after he had recovered from a very serious illness with the help of Kit-zyme.

Anxious to keep Mr. Pimm well I have continued to give him Kit-zyme. He has about half a dozen tablets each day and follows me about every morning asking for them. Kit-zyme has been a wonderful pick-me-up all his seven years.

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KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .
It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

VITAMIN-RICH YEAST

Promotes resistance to: **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**
50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-
From Chemists, Corn Chandlers and Pet Shops

Literature Free on Request



If any difficulty in obtaining write to:
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All cat owners are advised to keep a jar of Zemol in the store cupboard. Zemol, an actively antiseptic veterinary ointment (by the makers of Kit-zyme) is a safe and very effective way of treating minor wounds, cuts, burns, etc. Literature FREE on request.

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