

Our Cats

P 11

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



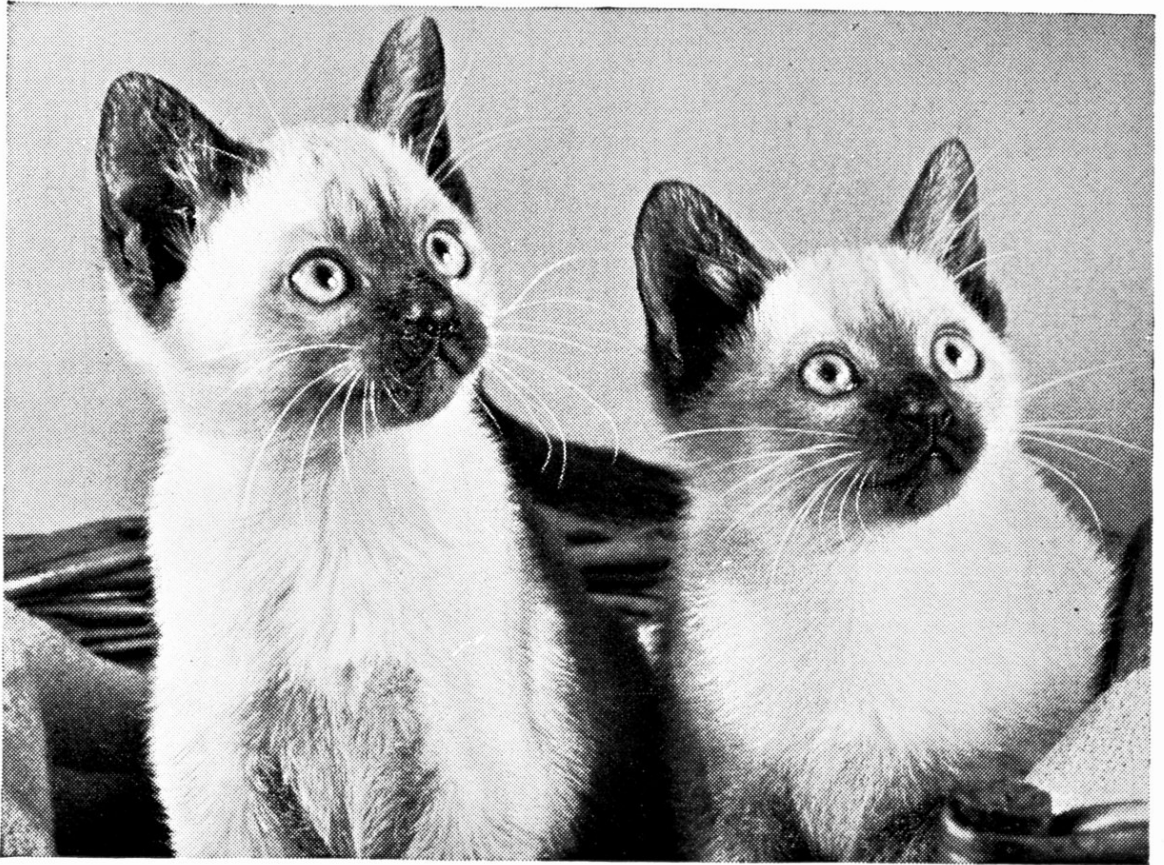
INT. CH. WIDDINGTON WINTERSOHN

An outstanding Cream Longhair bred by Miss E. M. Sheppard, of Berden, Herts, and exported to Sweden. Creams are under discussion in this month's "Just Fancy."

APRIL 1960

1/6

Are we protected against Infectious Enteritis?



In the close conditions of the Show every cat is exposed to infections. One of the most dangerous is Feline Enteritis—a particularly infectious virus disease which can spread quickly through a cattery or from cat to cat in a locality. Its onset is sudden and usually fatal. The mortality rate is highest among Siamese, although all breeds are susceptible. It may be too late after the Show . . . consult your veterinary surgeon now about 'Fiovax', and have your kittens vaccinated without delay.

'Fiovax'

BRAND

FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE



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.

VOL. 12 No. 4
APRIL 1960

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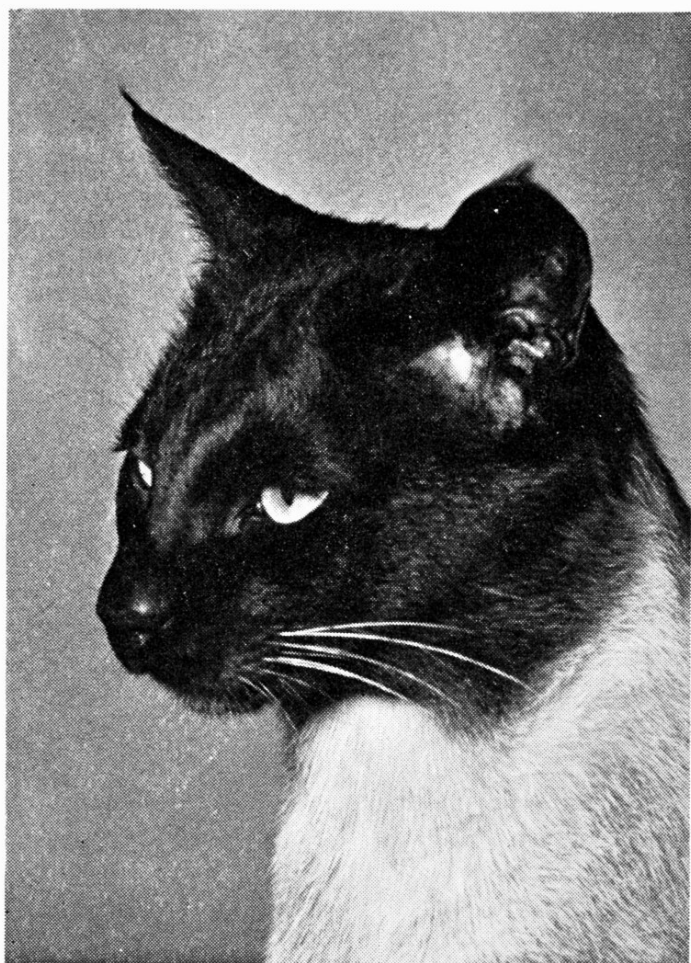
THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



St. Petersburg Times

When Sunshine City Cat Club held their 7th Championship Show at St. Petersburg, Florida, U.S.A., these two aristocrats caught the judge's eye. Mr. Rollen Junium (left) is holding CHATEAU CHAT LA MAGNIFIQUE OF SILVER KEY, a grand Shaded Silver male who was named Best in Show, Best Longhaired Cat, Best Novice, Best in the Silver Division. Breeder is Sally B. Kisler. On the right Gladys Morgan proudly displays her GALLAHAD'S CHICAGO OF WILLOUISE, a Blue-eyed White Longhair female bred by Mrs. Blanche Wolfram. This cat was second best in the Show, which was ably managed by Mrs. O. L. Richmond.

BEAU BOSUN



**1st and Ch.
BEST MALE
Siamese Ch. Show
1959. 1st and Ch.
BEST MALE
Scottish Cat Club
Ch. Show 1960**

*At Stud to Approved
Queens.*

Fee : 3 Guineas.

Sired :

**Quad. Ch.
DU-BU FAITH OF
DOMINEAU (U.S.A.)**
(Born 4.11.58)

DU-BU POLKA
(Born 28.4.59)

**1st Open Class Siamese
Ch. Show October, 1959**

*Recently Exported to Mrs. M.
Buckner, Toronto.*

ALSO

**Ch. DU-BU
JOLYON**
(Chinchilla)

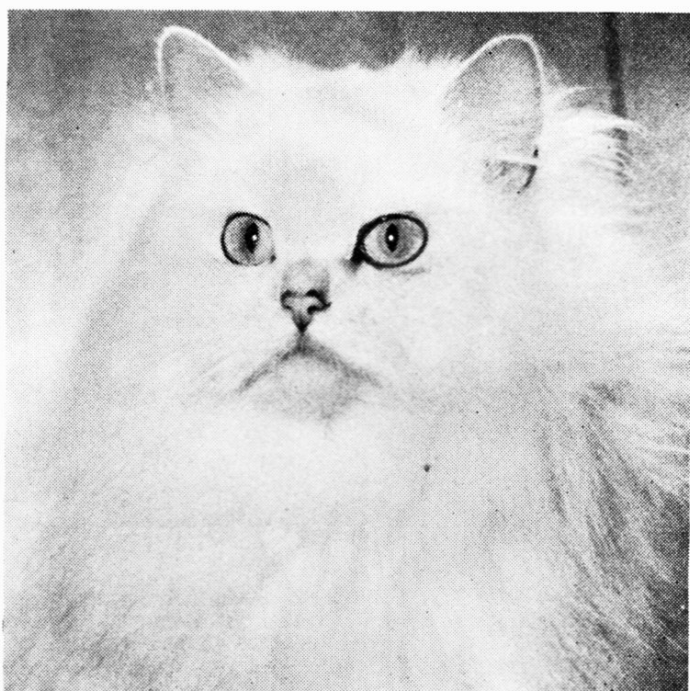
PROVED SIRE

Fee : 4 Guineas

*Limited number of
queens this season.*

MRS. A. H. WATTS
Darby House
Sunbury on Thames

'Phone 3252





“ Were I now starting afresh, I should look for a likely kitten either at a show or among breeders’ litters.”

Cat breeding from scratch – No. 2

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

IN my last article I found myself in the enviable position of being able to start cat breeding from scratch. The fruits of ten years’ experience were on the credit side of my ledger. On the debit side I had decided that first and foremost was to come the capital expenditure on proper housing for my cats.

There must be many breeders who started in ignorance, yet had beginner’s luck, because they happened to buy a good queen at the outset. Haphazard selection of breeding stock would be the last thing for me now. I should first of all make up my mind which of two possible ways I wanted to go.

On the one hand I could content myself with breeding kittens that would probably have no claim to distinction, but would be “poppets” in the eyes of not very discriminating customers. That is the way followed by countless breeders up and down the country. They produce pedigree stock which, when it appears—as it sometimes does—upon the show bench, causes judges to blench in horror.

On the other hand, I could aim at breeding “top-notchers” for show with a view to selling to breeders both here and overseas.

I do not believe that there is money to be made out of breeding kittens for pets—unless of course one is able to run a restaurant as a sideline and feed the

stock on surplus and scraps. Although many people are content to breed at a loss it is undoubtedly more satisfactory to make a little money in the process. In trying to breed to high standards I should have a good chance of doing this and the added thrill of sometimes breeding "a winner."

The first step for the beginner who is out to buy a really good queen with which to start a breeding programme is to get a good idea of the points of the chosen breed. No doubt, much experience is needed to become a good judge of any breed. On the other hand, there is nothing esoteric about judging whether a cat is good or bad. The beginner should try and form a clear picture of the "norm"—that is the *ideal* to which all cats of the breed should as nearly as possible conform. The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy is responsible for

seeing that this "norm" is clearly defined in a printed Standard of Points, which can be obtained from the Secretary, S. E. Barnes, O.B.E., 21a Lewis Road, Sidcup, Kent, price 2s.

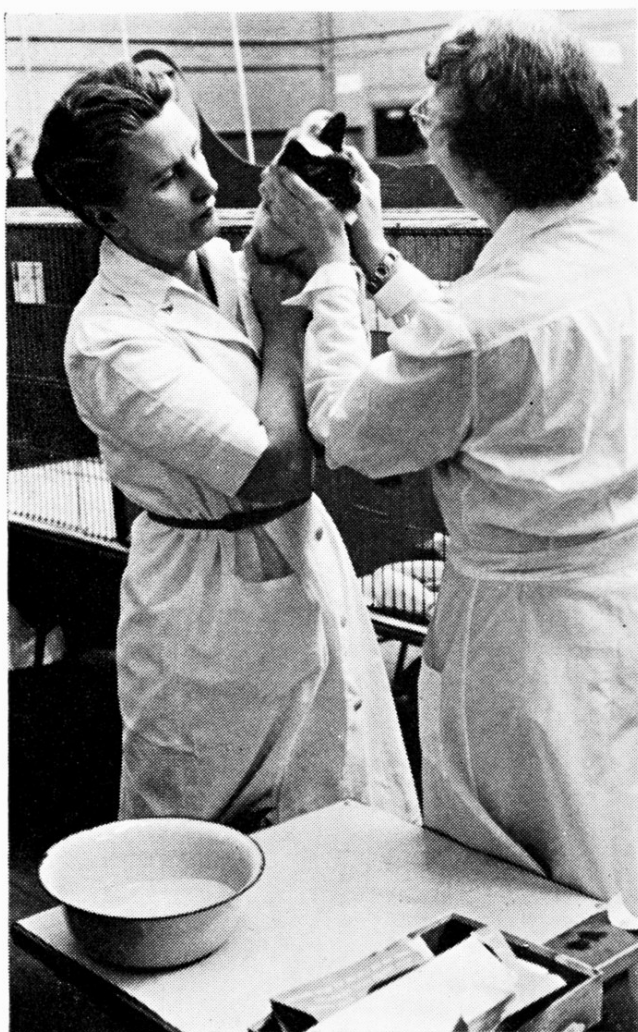
The Standard of Points is really an attempt to describe piecemeal what the ideal should look like in the assembled whole. It is helpful only as a guide and it is best for the beginner to approach the problem by seeing as many as possible really good adult cats. Each cat's characteristics should be tested against the Standard of Points. Then an endeavour should be made to form a clear mental picture of what the cat would look like if it did not have to be "faulted" for the defects which have been recognized.

The best place to do this is at a cat show—preferably at a Championship show. The novice will be surprised to find how many breeders there are not only willing but eager to explain from living examples what to look for. Judges too, provided they are approached when judging is over and they have had time for a cup of tea and to rest their weary feet, will usually give ready assistance.

It's a gamble

There is one serious snag about the choice of breeding stock. Unless you buy an adult and proved queen, you are embarking upon a gamble. In the first place, the most promising kitten can turn into an unpromising cat. Secondly, unless your queen has successfully reared her first litter, there is no telling what sort of a mother she will be.

She may eat, lie upon or neglect her kittens. She may only chew their whiskers off thereby rendering them unsuitable for showing. Her milk may fail to flow or may dry up before she has reared her litter. She may decide that love-making is a more compelling interest than motherhood. On the other hand, to be a devoted mother may be the "be all and end all" of her existence. Fortunately the good mothers outnumber the bad.



"Judges will help the novice to learn about the breed, but should not be approached when busy."

Were I now starting afresh, I should look for a likely kitten, either at a show or among breeders' litters. I should seek the advice of more than one expert. I should study pedigrees, paying particular attention to sire and grandsire. I should satisfy myself that there had been no excessive inbreeding.

Caution in buying

A good kitten may or may not grow up into a good cat—good in the show sense. A bad kitten is most unlikely to grow into a good cat. It is therefore better to go for a really good kitten in so far as this can be judged by bone structure, head shape, setting of ears and eyes and eye colour. The quality of coat cannot be accurately assessed with confidence at the kitten stage.

I would prefer not to buy a kitten outright at a show. I would rather pay

a deposit if need be and arrange to take delivery three weeks later, subject to the animal being A.1 fit. I should prefer to see the kitten on the breeder's premises, since I should then have an idea of the conditions under which it had been raised. Every stockbreeder knows that first rate nutrition and healthy housing are essential from the word "go!" And "go" is the moment of conception!

I should be reluctant to buy a kitten that had not already been inoculated against *infectious feline enteritis*—that most deadly of all cat epidemic diseases. Inspection should also show that the kitten was plump, but not over-fat, active, had bright eyes, no fleas and that the ears were clean and free from canker.

Having brought my kitten home my joys and sorrows would begin!

(to be continued next month)

IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

caused by the ear-mange mite can be definitely cured by three or four applications of the wonder-drug



ŌTŌDEX

which combines an anti-parasitic, antiseptic and local anæsthetic

SOOTHING, SAFE AND CERTAIN

Bottles 2/- and 7/6 (post 6d. and 9d.)

SKIN DISEASE

of a non-parasitic nature, so rife and often seasonal in cats, can be rapidly cured by



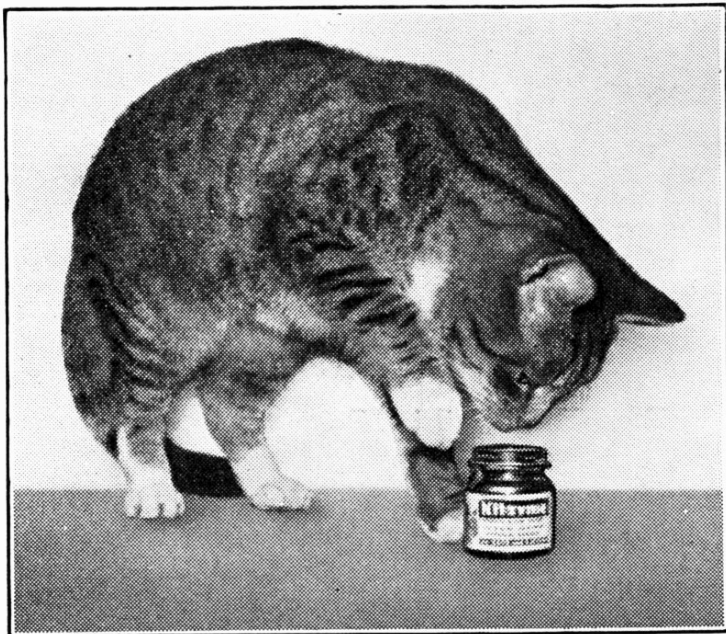
STRENOL ECZEMA CREAM

an outstanding and well-tested remedy. Quite safe if licked.

Pots 2/- (post 7½d.)

Both products are obtainable at Boots' branches

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David takes his daily dose!

MRS. D. MORRIS of 19 Heathfield Street, Litherland, Liverpool 21,
writes :—

“ I feel I must write and thank you for the benefit my cat, David, has derived from taking Kit-zyne Tablets.

“ David was in a very poor state of health and his coat was bare in patches, but after only one bottle of Kit-zyne there was a remarkable change in him. Now, as you can see from the photograph, his coat is in lovely condition and he is a picture of health.

“ Thanks again for making such a wonderful tonic for our dumb friends.”

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

Kit-zyne

VITAMIN - RICH YEAST TABLETS

Promotes resistance to: **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**

50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-

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Literature Free on Request



If any difficulty in obtaining write to:
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Ref. No. 214

Cat owners should keep Zemol handy. Zemol, in Ointment or Powder form, is an effective remedy for many skin troubles and minor wounds. Booklets FREE on application to the makers of Kit-zyne.

Genetics for the novice breeder

By A. C. JUDE

AS a matter of interest to fanciers we will describe briefly here how the youngsters are carried by the female. These details may be particularly welcome to novice breeders at this season of the year when breeding activities are at their height.

The uterus (womb) with its two appendages, or horns as they are technically called, 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, whilst 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. In the smaller animals the walls of this tube are very thin indeed, so thin in fact, as to be nearly transparent.

Each youngster is encased in a small sack the walls of which are also extremely thin, whilst each unborn youngster is attached to the wall of the tube by a disc-shaped 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 from 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 female is carrying a very 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 considerably impaired.

General disorders

The above is merely an outline of how the young are carried, and gives little indication of the complex procedure involved. Sufficient here to say that, because of the complicated nature of the mechanism, a variety of disorders may occur, the greatest trouble so far as the fancier is concerned, being stages of infertility, right down to sterility itself.

The disorders may be general, relating to the animal as a whole, or they may be local (at least in origin) and specifically affecting the actual organs of generation. Apart, however, from these causes which are definitely pathological (due to disease), sterility, or a low degree of fecundity may be associated with physiological conditions deviating from the normal in such a way as to be hardly of the nature of a disease, but yet, owing to a lack of co-ordination between the different organs concerned, or between

these and the general nutritive conditions of the animal, causing the power of propagation to be temporarily or permanently lost.

For example, on the one hand, an animal may be in such a state of under-nutrition that the reproductive organs fail to play their part, or on the other, infertility may be produced by the ovaries or testicles being permeated with fat, so that in either circumstance ripe ova or spermatozoa are no longer produced, though the accessory organs may remain approximately normal.

Better to neuter

Low fertility, and sterility of a temporary nature, because of their prevalence, are the causes of much greater trouble to a fancy than infertility of a more permanent kind, which occurs less frequently, although the latter, because of its striking effects, generally attracts most attention. The sterile animal is naturally unable to pass on faults which may normally be hereditary and therefore is of no danger in the population, but it could be possible for much breeding trouble to be spread by the low fertile animal, and unless the cause of the low fertility of an animal can be traced and corrected, it should never be used.

In the majority of cases, it will be far better to neuter, rather than attempt a cure, but a knowledge of the conditions that affect fertility will frequently enable the breeder to avoid or prevent the occurrence of both sterility and reduced fertility when these are of a temporary nature.

Studies on fertility have indicated that many factors affect litter size. It has been found that best results from matings are those from matings made on the second to the fourth day of heat. It is not advisable to allow a repeat mating more than two or three days after the first as young of different ages may result, and even this difference may be enough to result in some being born prematurely, and imperfectly developed.

To maintain a condition of full fertility animals should be bred from regularly. Failure in this respect will, in females, upset the normal functional activity of the ovaries owing to the tissue becoming overloaded with an excessive number of luteal scars arising from the follicles that have discharged their ova without these being fertilized. If animals for any reason are not used for a time, especially in the case of males, a small litter may result, but in these cases, it is always probable that the next litter may be perfectly normal. But it is not advisable that fanciers should keep a cat for stud purposes unless there is every prospect that regular use can be found for him.

A wrong belief

There is a rather widespread belief that excessive coitus on the part of the male effects litter size, but this has been proved to be incorrect. Experiments were carried out some time ago and reported in the *Journal of Agricultural Science*.

A large number of rabbits were used involving six bucks. One of these bucks copulated 39 times in eight hours with 14 different does. The first doe had a litter of six, and the last doe mated had a litter of eight. The other bucks mated six or seven does in quick succession, and gave varying results in which, sometimes the first litter and sometimes the last were more numerous.

Over the whole experiment there was no appreciable difference between numbers from first to last matings. This, however, does not mean that males should be used excessively.

(to be continued)





Tailpieces

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



KIPPER, the well known cat resident of the Travellers' Club has died. It is reported that a lively replacement has been found. His name is Haddock !

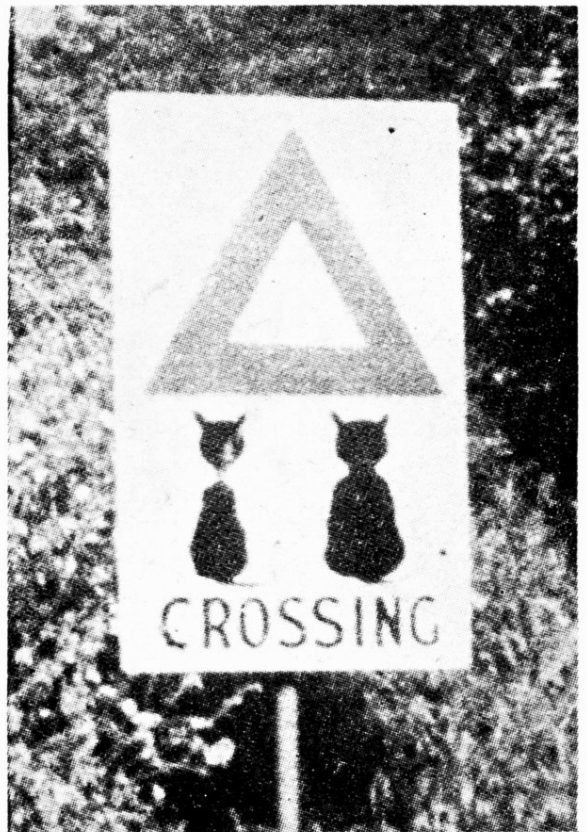
The review of R.S.P.C.A. prosecutions for 1959 reveals the disquieting fact that whilst the volume of cruelty cases warranting court cases is on the decrease, the numbers of juvenile prosecutions have increased by more than one in four. The Society obtained 114 convictions in the juvenile courts against a total of 84 in 1958. In all, 707 convictions were obtained in 1959 against all classes of offenders, a decrease of 19 on the 1958 figure. It is reasonable to assume that the Society will now recognize the need to increase its work among the schoolchildren. Last year its five full-time and part-time and voluntary lecturers gave no fewer than 1,388 talks in schools all over the country.

Mr. Joseph Scott, a retired builder of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, has donated the splendid gift of £500 towards the cost of the new Nottingham P.D.S.A. Animals' Hospital. The Building Fund Committee are tackling the task of raising more than £12,000 for the building and equipment.

Cat lovers in a Leytonstone (East London) street are afraid to let their pets out at night because injuries and deaths have been caused by someone with a gin trap. Three women residents

are so concerned that they have offered a £5 reward to anyone who can locate the trap/s. It has been suggested that some fanatical gardener may be the culprit.

The following item from a German newspaper has been kindly supplied and translated by a Suffolk subscriber: "Cat Nourishes Seven Mice. A cat not only nourished its four kittens but also 7 young mice. This was discovered by a farmer's wife (from Spinetto, near Naples) in her stable. The attempt to



More necessary today than ever before ! A warning sign for motorists put up at the end of his main road drive by Sir John Greaves after one of his cats had been run over and killed.

put the mice away yielded some scratches for the farmer's wife. The cat defended the mice and would let no human being near them."

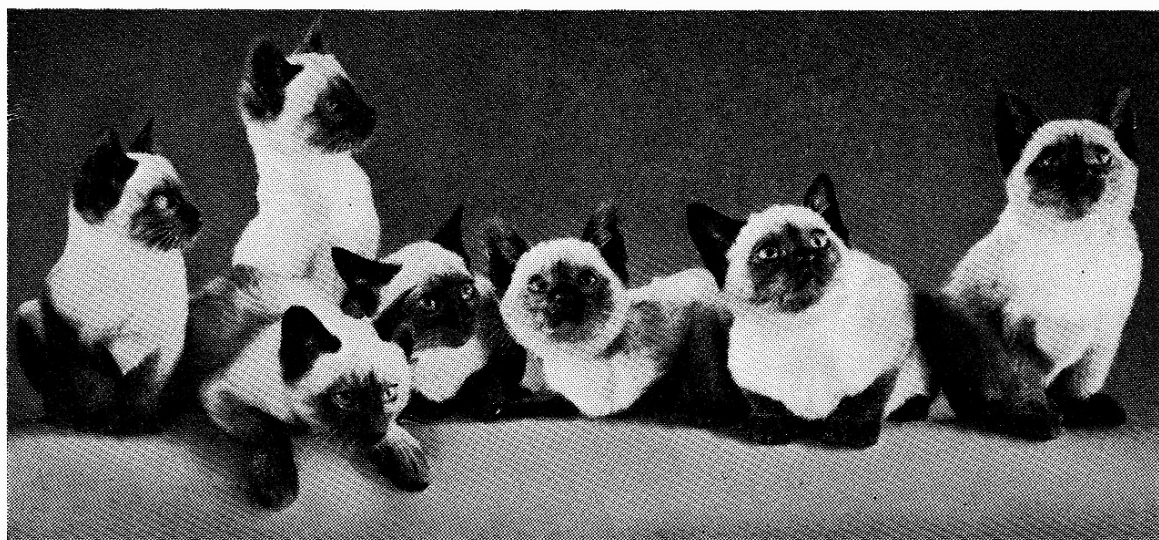
"I prefer cats to dogs—mainly because they are smaller. But I wonder how sincere most cat lovers are when they praise their pets for their arrogance, their pride, their refusal to be enslaved like dogs. My cat is a wild, lonely Burmese. And I notice that those friends who most admire her independence still think that she wants to be picked up and cuddled like a baby. And when she screams with indignation, and claws her way out of their embrace, they are furious and hurt." Extract from the London *Daily Mail*.

Mrs. E. Greener, an elderly resident of Hawera, New Zealand, owes her life to a stray kitten she adopted at Christmas. Opening the bedroom door after being awakened by the kitten's

persistent cries, she was almost overcome by ammonia-like fumes. Neighbour's answered her calls for help and the firemen subsequently found a refrigerator pipe leaking sulphur dioxide fumes.

Judging from the nature of some of the enquiries which reach us at this period of the year, the present time would seem opportune for a reference to the *List of Cats at Stud*, published by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. List No. 17 for 1960 costs 1s. and may be had from the Secretary, Mr. S. E. Barnes, O.B.E., 21a Lewis Road, Sidcup, Kent. The 13th Volume of the "Stud Book," which is more comprehensive, costs 5s. from the same source. Did you know, for instance, that there are nearly 3,500 registered prefixes and affixes and that the fee to-day for the exclusive use of a cattery prefix is £1 11s. 6d. for life registration ?

The Siamese Cat Association has had its first Annual General Meeting.



How many of them will you rear ?

Normally — all of them. But suppose just *one* of your cats contracted Feline Infectious Enteritis ? You might lose the lot in a few days.

Be safe—have your kittens injected *before they are three months old* with Vaccine manufactured by Dr. Graeub of Berne. Consult your veterinary adviser who will be able to give you full advice.

GRAEUB FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE

Sole distributors in Great Britain and Ireland :
INTERNATIONAL SERUM CO. LTD., MILL HILL, LONDON, N.W.7

Mrs. Elsie Kent, experienced in all matters relating to the breed, was unanimously elected as Chairman of a somewhat modified Committee. Affiliation to the Governing Council has been granted and membership is now approaching the 200 mark, which is excellent going for a first year's operations. A copy of the Association's first *Journal* has reached me. Edited by Mr. Ivor Raleigh, it has several useful and interesting features, the contributors being the President Lady Rosemary Glubb, Vice-Chairman Mrs. L. J. A. Price, Mrs. P. Lauder and Mrs. F. Lentaigne. The editorial refers to the Association's "declared desire to establish a firm feeling of friendship with the Siamese Cat Club . . . aimed at rendering the best service to those who share our joint interest."

A drunken lout of a labourer named Patrick Kelly arrived at a London tube station just after midnight, rolling, singing and swearing. When a cat crossed his path he kicked it, picked it up by its tail, swung it round his head and threw it several yards. Fortunately

this brutish exhibition was witnessed by P.C. Williams. "Was it a hard kick?" asked the magistrate. "Yes, sir," replied the officer. "Kelly was wearing a big pair of army boots." The defendant was gaoled for 14 days on the charge of cruelty to the cat.

Nigger, a stray black cat who fell in love with the sea, has spent eleven years afloat on the British freighter *Brookmount* which carried cattle between Belfast and the Mersey. He made numerous friends among seamen and port officials and had an uncanny instinct for knowing the time of sailing when he slipped ashore. Now that the *Brookmount* is being broken up Nigger is being transferred to another freighter.

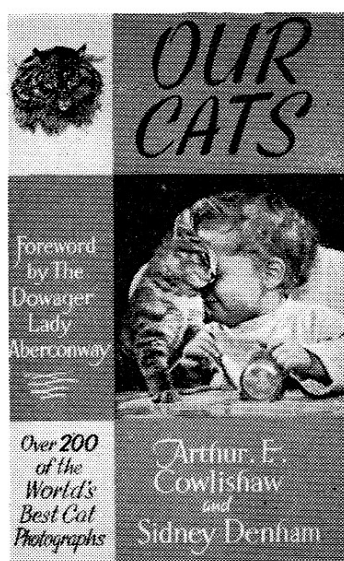
That newsy little item about cats you have read in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down . . . will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope? Cuttings from overseas publications are particularly welcome. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

MICKEY



LINDALE DEAR DUMBO, a young Blue Burmese male belonging to Mrs. Linda Parker, enjoys a soft seat in pleasant surroundings.

A WONDERFUL GIFT—ANY TIME!



**A beautifully produced
pictorial symposium**

OUR CATS

By Arthur E. Cowlshaw and Sidney Denham, with foreword by the Dowager Lady Aberconway. Royal 8vo, 128 pp. Over 200 photographs. Published by Nicholas Kaye Ltd.

Here is a book designed to bring lasting pleasure to cat lovers everywhere. It is the perfect gift book—amusing, entertaining, informative and instructive—and quite unique in its presentation. The photographs have been carefully selected by the Editor from ten years' issues of **OUR CATS** magazine. Here are beautiful pictures and funny pictures ; pictures of cats with famous people and other animals ; pictures of the playful kitten and aristocratic champion ; a wonderful wealth of pictures for everyone chosen for their human interest and liveliness.

The sections—some linked with informative and entertaining text by Sidney Denham—include : Cats through the Ages, Cats and People, Playing with a Cat, the Hogarth of Cats (Louis Wain), Cats and Smiles, Cats and Strange Friends, Cats and the Artist, Cats as Mothers, Cats in the Fancy.

**Price 18s. 0d., plus 1s. 6d. for packing and postage.
(U.S.A. and Canada \$3.25 inclusive)**

Orders and remittances (made payable to "Our Cats") should be sent to OUR CATS, 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, 378 CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9.

MORE CORRESPONDENCE

Heating Cattery Costs

MR. HUGH SMITH will, I am sure, not object if I raise a point on the heating of catteries following his article "Cat Breeding from Scratch" in your March issue.

He refers to expensive infra-red heating and equipment. I have used this form of heating in my catteries since 1953 and find it the most efficient and the *least* expensive both as regards initial purchase and to run and maintain. In seven years I have only had three new bulbs, one replaced free on guarantee.

There are two good makes on the market suitable for catteries. One is the "Labat." The standard small unit is 220 watts, but they will wire to 180 watts on special order. This is suitable for a cattery 7 x 5. So this is 180 watts as against Mr. Smith's 300 watts for tubular heating and instead of the approximate cost of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. per day to run), the infra-red cuts the cost to 6d. per day used continuously. There is another lamp on the market made primarily for the Chinchilla breeders, but used for cat breeding also. It is obtainable from the Circle M Chinchilla Equipment Co. This is a 150 watt model priced at 34s. The running costs of infra-red are cheaper than any other form of electrical heating and much cheaper than oil.

The advantage of using infra-red against ordinary electrical heating is that the air is not dried. They are best used at 3 to 4 feet above the bed and these low wattages used as stated do not increase rate of growth or rate of maturity, but they do produce a *healthier* kitten. They produce a soft silky coat and an animal more resistant to minor illnesses and infections and with abundant vitality.

Another useful piece of electrical equipment is the "Warmakennel." This is a small type of scratch proof electric blanket to go under bedding. It is shock proof, waterproof and quite harm-

less. The elements are embedded in safety plastic. Sizes are 2' 6" x 1' 6" (36 watts) or 1' 6" x 1' (12 watts). They cost approximately 1d. per day and they are 12 volts only. The price is £2 19s. 6d., plus transformer £1 9s. 6d. and £3 19s. 6d., plus transformer £1 14s. 6d. They are more expensive initially than infra-red, which are mostly under £2, and they would not warm a cattery in winter. They would, however, be ideal for stud cats or use in summer and many occasions when extra warmth is needed. Ideal, of course, for nursing a sick cat.

If any reader wishes for fuller details I shall be happy to supply them on receipt of a s.a.e.

MRS. JOAN JUDD.

Little Close, Old Down,
Tockington, nr. Bristol.

G.C. appoints Registrar

Will club secretaries and breeders please note that on March 31st Mrs. Brown relinquished the post of Assistant Secretary to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. No further registrations or correspondence should be sent either to 111 Nork Way or 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, after that date.

The position of Assistant Secretary is being abolished. Instead, a Registrar will take up duty as from April 1st. He will be responsible for **all registration, transfers, certified pedigrees and export certificates.**

The executive have approved, from a large number of applicants, the selection of Mr. A. A. Towe, 6 Palmerston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

Mr. Towe brings an extensive knowledge and wide experience to his duties and his many friends in the Fancy will wish him well in his new and important office.

S. E. BARNES, O.B.E.

(Secretary to the Governing Council
of the Cat Fancy).

21a Lewis Road, Sidcup, Kent.

TERRYTINKA

TELEPHONING

FOR HIS TIBS



TIBBY, the Tibs reporter, meets Terushka Russian Blues

"That's a family joke," said Mrs. Jean Terry, of 60 The Willoughbys, Upper Richmond Road, S.W.14. "When Terrytinka plays with the 'phone in the evening, we say he's telephoning for his Tibs."

"And, of course, he gets it. His sister, Terrydwina, gets two when she's in kitten — in fact, she mostly gets two. These cats love them."

Terushka Russians are family cats — home-loving, very beautiful and the quietest breed of all. Official breeder is

Mrs. Terry's daughter, Pamela, who was Britain's youngest breeder when she first showed (and took a first) at the National Cat Show in 1957.

"We hear about other people having trouble with kittens," Mrs. Terry said. "We hardly ever do. We put it down to treating them all like family pets — and to their daily Tibs!"

True enough. Family cats and show winners all need the essential vitamins and minerals in their daily Tibs tablet.



Famous breeders say, daily TIBS
for the cat that's cared for



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.

Focus on Creams

MISS KATHLEEN YORKE (Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy) invited breeders of Cream and Blue-Cream Longhairs to coffee and refreshments at a London restaurant on February 24th. She felt they should be given an opportunity to discuss the colour of these varieties before the A.G.M. of the Society on March 2nd.

The Standard of Points for Creams is vague, as out of a possible 100 points for the entire cat or kitten 50 are allocated for coat and it states : "Colour. To be pure and sound throughout without shading or markings. Coat. Long, dense and silky." It does not attempt to define shade.

Several suggestions were made to "pin down" the ideal tone but it was more or less agreed it is difficult to obtain an absolutely level sound pale coat in an adult.

In this respect they are similar to Blues, their very near relatives. We see over and over again pale to medium blue kittens sound to the roots with the lovely bluish sheen which is so enchanting with their orange or copper eyes but how seldom these kittens retain this attractive coat colouring. After about five or six months they usually commence to darken and towards the end of Winter frequently become lighter at the roots. This latter fact I consider we must accept as it is often a preliminary to moulting.

In Creams the tendency in some adults is an almost white undercoat, particularly at the end of the season, and this caused adverse comment. But again the problem is to retain the pleasing sound pale Cream in maturity that one often sees in kittens.

To make colour more complicated in this variety, cats can vary in shade from one season to another as we see from judges' reports and our own observation. Mrs. Aitken brought several reels of silk to define colour and some brought shade cards of decorator's paint. The latter's definition is often a cream faintly tinged with palest primrose.

One respect in which Creams have improved in post-war years is that we see fewer cats with a tendency to bars on the forepaws and faint suggestions of tabby markings. This is due to the fact that their original ancestors, Red Tabbies and Tortoiseshells are becoming more remote in the pedigrees of our best Creams.

After much friendly discussion it was agreed that a request should be made to

the Red, Cream, Tortie and Blue-Cream Society for the Standard to be more clearly defined. On being put to the vote a small majority were in favour of 30 for colour and 20 for coat, versus the breeders who preferred 25 and 25 respectively. Head and eyes were more briefly discussed and surprisingly the Standard only allows 20 for head and 15 for eyes although in practice I doubt if a Cream would become a Champion if it failed in these qualities, especially if it competed only at the major Championship shows. 15 points for Body completes the Standard.

Guard the type

Although type indicates general conformation, one tends to think of short faces, snub noses, full muzzles, firm chins and small ears as type. These qualities plus lovely eyes are the only ones which endure all the year and personally I would regret to see one iota of them sacrificed to obtain pale adults.

From time to time remarks have been made that type or eye colour was "fixed" in Blues. I wonder how many stud owners would agree to this, even if they take only strictly approved queens.

Some of these are reminiscent of two or three decades ago when the average for type was not as high as it is nowadays. Type as we see it in our best Creams is a quality to be zealously guarded.

Creams monopolised so much time at the meeting that Blue-Creams were only briefly discussed. There was a suggestion that Blue Tortoiseshells should be recognized also and be eligible for Championship status. Only the latter are recognized in U.S.A. Blue-Creams intermingled all over are a *rara avis* and at their best there is usually a cream or blue patch somewhere. One can only hope it will be the latter as blue is much less obtrusive.

This suggestion was eventually left for further discussion at the A.G.M. Several well known judges and breeders were

present and expressed their opinion. Mrs. J. M. Newton, Hon. Secretary of the Red, Cream, Tortie, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society, who has bred all these varieties for over twenty-five years, naturally took an interest in the ideas of those present, the majority of whom were members of the Society. Other well known judges were Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. Brunton, Mrs. Brice-Webb and the doyen of Cream and Blue-Cream breeders, Miss Edith Sheppard, so well known for the quality of her stock and the success of her post-war Champions.

It was interesting to hear Miss Yorke's opinions based on such extensive experience of breeding before the war and her emphasis when she deprecated the breeding of these two varieties from Red Tabbies and Tortoiseshells. The further back in the pedigree they are the better, she said. Pedigrees with at least four generations with no variety except Creams, Blues and Blue-Creams will produce the best results.

Miss Yorke presided over Captain Guy St. Barbe's famous pre-war Culloden Cattery which produced so many lovely Blacks, Whites, Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams. How vividly we seniors remember them! They were awarded literally hundreds of firsts and Challenge Certificates.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Miss Yorke for her kind invitation and a friendly and useful meeting closed with further chats for those who were able to remain.

National A.G.M.

In the afternoon the Annual General Meeting of the National Cat Club took place at the Grosvenor Hotel, at which 39 members were present. The Hon. Secretary Mrs. Brunton announced that the Club has 168 members and two honorary members.

Miss Jury's proposal that "no member of this Club who already holds an official

position in more than two other affiliated clubs shall be eligible for election as a member of the Committee or to any other official position in the Club " failed to get a two-thirds majority by a narrow margin. Her other proposal that the N.C.C. should have a postal vote for Committee and delegates was passed. This, of course, supersedes the present system of electing both at the A.G.M. Miss Lelgarde Fraser, Vice-President, presented a silver trophy to be won outright, conditions to be decided later.

Mrs. Mason, of Worthing, presented two musical toby jugs. Various suggestions were made as to the most advantageous method of disposing of such attractive prizes. Raffling them at the December Ch. Show should really augment Show finances.

Miss Edith Sheppard won outright the silver cup presented by Monsieur Schonau of Belgium for the best Cream female adult with Widdington Honey-star, who became a Champion on the day. She is by Ch. Widdington Winter-star. Mrs. Joan Thompson won outright

the silver cup presented by Monsieur Rossi, also of Belgium, for best Blue male adult with Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous by Ch. Dylan of Allington.

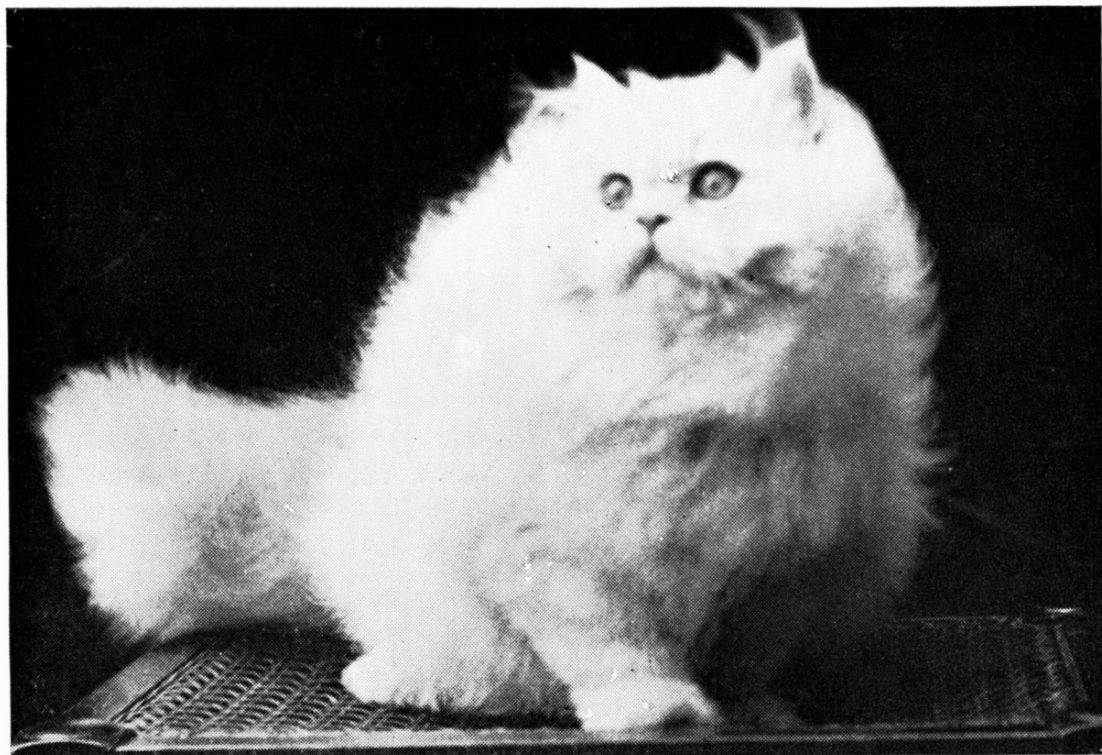
Mrs. Calder, M.R.C.V.S., was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Stirling-Webb and she was also elected as one of the four delegates to the G.C., the others being the Rev. B. Rees, Mrs. Brunton and Miss K. Yorke.

Mrs. Grace Pond kindly consented to organize the show again this year, so all's well with " the National."

Kensington K. & N.C.C.

The next day, February 25th, was another morning and afternoon affair for those on the Committee of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club.

At the A.G.M. Miss Kit Wilson (Chairman) gave members a detailed account of Club affairs with special reference and appreciation to Mrs. Aitken (Hon. Secretary) and Mrs. Hughes (Hon. Treasurer) who have had much extra work arising from the 1958 July show.



INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION SUNRISE OF PENSFORD, an English bred Cream male who has been shown with outstanding success on the Continent by his owner Mlle. Georgette Curchod, of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mrs. Aitken has not yet decided if she will be able to organize the 1960 fixture which again takes place at the end of July, but the Committee and I am sure the members hope she will be able to carry on. It is one of the most popular events of the year when so many lovely kittens make their début and the neuters are so often a show in themselves.

The Club has the very satisfactory membership of over 250. Two vacancies on the Committee were filled by Mrs. Allen-Smith and Mrs. Thake, the latter very sportingly offering to travel all the way from Coventry to attend meetings. Her Silver Tabby Shorthairs have done much to re-establish this lovely variety which was so depleted during the War. Mrs. Aitken and Mrs. Grace Pond were re-elected unopposed as Delegates to the Governing Council.

Cream Standard revised

On March 2nd, the A.G.M. of the Red, Cream, Tortie and Blue-Cream Society confirmed the vote *re* definition for coat and colour in Creams which was taken at Miss Yorke's meeting, although it passed by a narrow majority of two. The suggestion regarding Blue Tortoiseshells was discussed again and it was obvious that when breeders had had time to think over it they considered it impracticable, an opinion with which I concur. Genetically Blue-Creams are Blue Tortoiseshells and even some of our Champions are so like them it is a misnomer to suggest they are intermingled, but the anomalies which would arise if two varieties of the same breed were recognized can be imagined. It is quite possible that a so-called intermingled Blue-Cream which was awarded a Challenge Certificate at one show could be "wrong classed" at another show under another judge who might consider it should be classified as a Blue Tortoiseshell. In any case, this variety must be considered the finest medium for breeding Creams and for this purpose I should always select a Blue-Cream excelling in

type and eye colour even if the distribution of the two colours precluded it from competition, especially as one cannot breed for intermingling when there are no Blue-Cream males.

Mrs. Brice-Webb was elected to the Committee, a happy choice as she is especially interested in Creams and Blue-Creams, the breeders of which are the main support of the Society. A vote of thanks was given to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. M. Newton, for all her work over the past successful year. She had previously been returned unopposed as delegate.

Chinchillas "carpeted"

En route to an A.G.M., I bought a copy of *Woman's Own* to read in the train and in it found an enchanting colour reproduction of a Chinchilla mother cat and her two kittens with the familiar caption "Everybody loves a Kosset carpet."

Surmising they were Mrs. Mollie Turney's Chinchillas I wrote to her and this is her reply :

"I get so many enquiries as to how the photos are taken that it might be a good idea to publish details of the method used. I have heard rumours that the cats are drugged to get them sleepy and placid. Needless to say I would *never* subject them to such treatment and am as anxious as anyone at every session in case they will not pose.

"It is impossible to always use the same cat as they are usually required at a moment's notice and it depends on which are in coat, which have kittens and if a single cat or group is required.

"The first time kittens were used was in the studio, a tremendous room with a huge carpet on the floor surrounded by arc flash lamps, but we were not allowed to walk on the carpet as tread marks would show up in the picture. We tried dangling paper tied on the end of a stick. After two shots the kittens realized as soon as they walked on the

carpet the flash lamps would go so they avoided it. Then I had another idea. We left all the arc lamps burning and focused on one part of the carpet. We then let the kittens play where they chose and after about four hours they were tired and curled up of their accord and went to sleep under the warmth of the lamps.

"This first study was voted the best commercial photograph of the month by the Photographic Society and was mentioned by Mr. Anthony Greenwood in the House of Commons during a debate on advertising as 'An ever welcome picture in the Greenwood household!' He was duly presented with a copy of the original photo.

"Next came the obvious sequel to this—I.T.V.—and for this I was told they wanted a cat to walk through a door on to a carpet, sit down, yawn, stretch, wash, then go to sleep. This was the tallest order so far! I was told the filming

could take days or weeks, if necessary, until by cutting, the complete sequence was obtained. It was agreed to take it all at home. My sitting room was full as it required (a) a director, (b) an electrician, (c) camera-man and his assistant, (d) continuity editor and (e) a director of Kosset Carpets to approve the laying of the carpet.

"Inwardly I felt no cat would ever stay in a room with so many lights and noises. I hesitated between Ch. Bonavia Contenta and Ch. Bonavia Flora and finally chose the latter as she is a sweet cat who knows every word I say to her. She went through the whole sequence with a few words from me even to the finale when she went to sleep with just her paws kneading. The whole shooting took just two hours! The film is due to be shown next month (April).

"The next session was for 'stills' of a cat walking downstairs and rolling on the apex of three different coloured

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carpets. Alas ! Flora was out of coat so we decided on Contenta, and for 'stills' it means journeying to London. Although it was the breeding season he behaved like a perfect gentleman and loved every minute of his six-hour session, in fact the Kosset director was so impressed he would have purchased Contenta there and then.

White became black !

"I can assure everyone that it is only with love and an abundance of patience that these studies are possible. With each cat or kitten we use I wonder if they will co-operate but so far none has shown 'temperament' or become camera shy. In fact, both myself and the photographer are amazed that such independent animals can be so co-operative.

"One incident which fortunately had a happy ending was when we lost Contenta after shutting him in the photographer's office whilst we discussed 'takes.' The brick fireplace in his room had been sealed with a sheet of steel. You can imagine the consternation when his assistant ran into the studio saying Contenta was missing. We hunted high and low, then as a last resource I moved the steel sheet and there he sat purring away but as black as a sweep ! We had to bath him, dry him with hot towels whilst he purred and purred and thoroughly enjoyed all the attention, quite oblivious of the fact that he had held up everyone for four hours. It was remark-

able that even after this interlude he behaved so well."

Mrs. Turney had not long returned from a three weeks' holiday in Italy and her letter concludes on a sad note. "The poor cats I saw there were too pitiful for words." She comments, "Round all the churches and ruins were literally dozens of cats half-starved and dependent on the people who take crusts of bread for them. It made me feel quite ill. At the Zoo in Rome where visitors buy fish for the seals people were quite amused that I also bought fish, but for the cats which follow the keepers, hoping there will be some for them."

Mr. Beverley Nichols in his weekly article in *Woman's Own*, entitled "My World," writes : "How wonderful it would be, on one's next holiday in Italy, to be able to enjoy a dinner in one of those charming little street cafés, without having one's heart torn in shreds by the starving cats and dogs that slink about under the tables."

One of my own most poignant pre-war holiday impressions, amid all the glitter and charm of Monaco, was the emaciated cats which seemed to mostly congregate in the famous cemetery there.

We have great cat lovers like Mr. Steward of the Cat's Protection League and Miss Kit Wilson but no one knows better than they that their work is "a drop in the ocean" in comparison with all that is needed. In the meantime let us vow to help them as much as we can in the hope that in time their work may even be extended abroad.



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A page for the proletarian puss—No. 90



P. Eggermont, Vence

Jane Rhodes is a famous French opera star who recently sang in a performance of "Carmen" in Paris before President de Gaulle and other notabilities. She is also a popular television personality. Whilst lunching out with friends at a small restaurant at Vence in the Alpes Maritime she made the acquaintance of Rye, a handsome black cat who, she said, would bring her good luck. Rye is a 14-pounder who was born in 1947 in a bathroom across the road at Mrs. Pelham Cochrane's lovely residence Le Mas de l'Ara. Unfortunately, he never "got on" with the Siamese in the household. So, being a sensible cat, he decided that the kitchen was the best place for a little peace and relaxation and the "La Reserve" Restaurant "over the way" ideal for meeting new friends.

 **GENERAL INFORMATION :** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, 378 CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9. (Macaulay 1462).

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News from "Down Under"

HELLO, folks ! After a few weeks of wet, humid weather and some flooding we seem to be back to sunny days and moonlight nights again. The autumn can be very lovely here.

New South Wales. The show season opened on March 5th with a kitten show at Chatswood by the Southern Cross All Breeds Club with Secretary Mullins doing a very fine job. Unfortunately, President Mrs. M. Helsham was unable to be present. She had a prior engagement in hospital but, I understand, will soon be out and about again. At the H.Q. meeting (Consultative Committee) it was decided to send Mrs. Helsham a "Get well quickly" letter.

The Club had a lovely day for the event and a very good entry kept three judges and a junior judge busy till mid-day. Major awards went as follow: Longhairs: Best Male—Mrs. Freeman's Mayfield Aristocrat ; Best Female—Miss Haswell's Miowera Trinket (a grand old Shaded Silver lady of ten years, and improving, it seems) ; Best Male Kit—Mrs. Holloway's Prince Shane of Roma; Best Female Kit—Mrs. Freeman's Tehran Salome ; Best Brood Queen—Miss Rapley's Mayfield Precious. Siamese : Best Male—Mrs. Carlisle's Tchanton Tuan ; Best Female—Mrs. Meaney's Lindfield Tawny Maid ; Best Male Kit—Mrs. Meaney's Lindfield Tawny Hare; Best Female Kit—Mrs. Hinde's Dandalun Princess Arla; Brood Queen and Litter—Mrs. Meaney's Lindfield Tawny Maid and litter. All cards awarded were posted by 1 p.m. and trophies presented by 3.30 p.m., a tribute to Mrs. Paris and Mrs. Armit, who always do a grand job.

Mrs. S. Dowty has been very busy organizing the next show to be staged by

the new club Northern Feline Fanciers at Mosman Town Hall. I understand that there is a record entry for the Royal Easter Show. This is the fixture which brings out the "dark horses" and Champions past and present. The old Cat Fanciers Association are holding a general meeting on two days to arrange judges, stewards, etc.

Mrs. Donmall, President of Cumberland Club and breeder of the famous Mystic Siamese, has produced the first litter of Abyssinian kittens in New South Wales by Chatwyn Nimrod and Finisterre Thelia, all doing fine, thank you ! I think that Mrs. Lylie Thurmer, that good scout in Adelaide, bred the first Abby. litter in Australia.

South Australia. The February *Newsletter* is to hand from the boys Tom and Jerry and makes interesting reading. The third birthday of this useful publication is to be celebrated with a dinner party and dance at a leading hotel. I hope if it is decided as mooted to only put out the *Newsletter* every second month a scribe is appointed to send me a few news items for the off months. The Club CFA is preparing for the Championship Show on June 25th, for which two N.S.W. judges have been invited.

Mrs. St. George, one of the Adelaide Longhair foundation members, will have to add a couple more houses to her cattery, I guess, as she has about 40 kittens to cater for. Wonder if she has any time to enjoy her slippers and a book ? Shouldn't think so !

Victoria. A show was held at Alexandra Gardens on March 5th for Longhairs, proceeds for the Feline Disease Research Fund, to which a Sydney judge was invited. Results have not yet reached me. Another fixture for

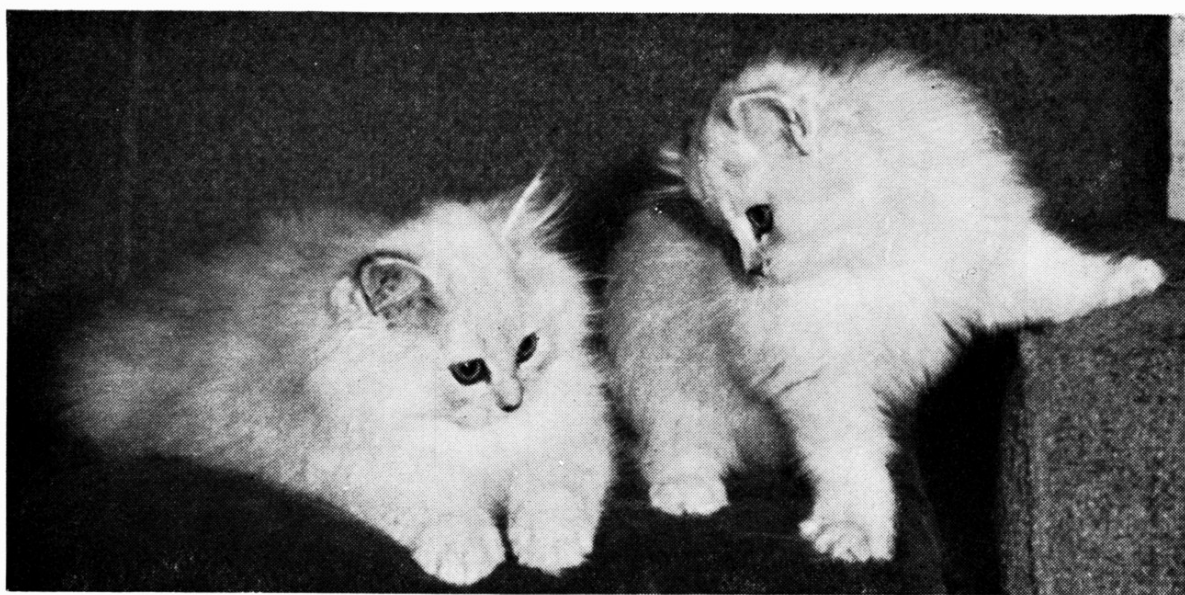
Shorthairs is listed for same Fund and location this month (March). The *Newsletter* received from Mrs. Houlihan contains a report of the A.G.M. of Melbourne Siamese Cat Club. Col. Cole is again President with Col. Scott Vice-President, Mr. Wilson Secretary and Mr. Greening Treasurer, and a Committee of nine. May I congratulate them all and wish them good debating. The report for the year by the President was very interesting and the balance sheet looks very healthy. Only one show was held during the year, owing, I understand, to difficulties in securing the hall, but the very useful sum of over £50 was presented to the Spastic Children's Society.

One grand old feline whose registered number is 9 celebrated her 11th birthday anniversary in February and was an exhibit at the Club's first show. She is their oldest living registration and both she and Gracedieu-da-Yook of N.S.W. (11 months her senior) are very respected members of the feline world.

The *Newsletter* reporter has included the following little para which is well worth repeating: "A few days ago I saw in the back of a parked car outside my home a beautiful Siamese kitten, a young puppy and a budgerigar, all

playing happily together. What a wonderful sight! It seems they had been brought up to eat, play and sleep together. I sincerely trust this friendship lasts and that Puddy gets no wicked ideas about Budgie!

Queensland. Things are going along merrily in the Northern State, but it would appear from letters received that the Longhair breeders have been unfortunate with their kittens and will be depending on the autumn litters to fill the pens at the shows coming up shortly. One fixture in February was cancelled I understand through lack of entries. If I have read the dates aright, the usual fortnight between fixtures, to minimize the risk of infectious diseases, has been waived, which is a pity. With so many shows coming up by different and new clubs and not enough dates in the desired season to go round, something will have to be done soon. Many of the older clubs, particularly those catering for the Longhair breeds, have had the same dates for years, making it hard for new clubs to get a suitable Saturday for their fixtures. A nice letter from Mr. C. Woodrow, of Brisbane, who seems to be quite recovered again, promised a report on the coming shows.



These delightful Chinchilla kittens were bred from a Silver Tabby queen Ch. Fameleigh Myosotis by New Zealand fancier Miss S. M. Tasker of Wellington. Walmerdene Beau Chevalier is telling his brother Walmerdene Gay Parisian just what it feels like to be Best Chinchilla Kitten at the Wellington C.C. Show, 1959. Unfortunately, Beau's life ended soon afterwards through infectious enteritis, a great loss to his owner.

New Zealand. News received from Miss Menzies seems to indicate that, as with us in Aussie, the show season will soon be under way again. I notice the names of eleven students who were successful at the judges' training class exam. last year in Auckland and have now been listed as probationer judges. I consider the Council's Clause 5 set down for this class and requiring a minimum of three years' breeding experience with pedigreed cats is very good. Eleven rules are set down for the guidance of clubs wishing to conduct these training classes.

Miss Menzies includes a report from Miss Holmes, of Hastings, which is a tragic reminder how careful breeders

must be. I quote : " I have had the most terrible tragedy with my kittens. Some children were touring the district for about four blocks around, trying to find if a black and white stray kit(sick) belonged to anyone. At 8 a.m. they called here and were told it was not mine, but when I came home to lunch I found the sick stray kitten in with mine. My yard had been broken into and the inner door catch on the house broken off. I had the kitten taken away but three days later mine started dying off like flies with enteritis. Only two out of twelve were left. The S.P.C.A. had the vet. destroy the stray as it was ill." Our sympathy goes out to Miss Holmes with all her worry and I shall certainly mention the incident to members at our A.G.M.

FOR ABYSSINIAN ENTHUSIASTS

THE particular enthusiasm of Abyssinian owners for their chosen breed is suggested by the fact that there are now no less than four separate News Letters devoted to them. As far as we know no other breed, not even the popular and prolific Siamese, receives anything like this literary attention !

We have just received the first number of the latest of these News Letters, *The Canadian Aby Purr-View*, a publication of the recently formed Abyssinian Cat Fanciers of Canada. This is a remarkably generous publication of 43 pages which is a testimony to the enthusiasm of its editor, Mrs. E. L. R. Williamson. Like the Abyssinian Cat News Letter which Mr. and Mrs. Denham have produced in Britain for nine years and the News Letters of the two American Abyssinian Cat Clubs, the *Canadian Aby Purr-View* is duplicated. But very imaginative use has been made of coloured papers and line drawings so that the whole production has a very professional look. The very low cost to subscribers overseas of one dollar a year or 35 cents for a single

copy can surely be possible only through the generous gifts of time and material by Canadian enthusiasts.

The magazine covers Abyssinian interests very comprehensively — genetics, show results, health and welfare. The section " Abbies Round the World " in which owners tell of the particular habits of their pets seems to confirm what so many Abyssinian owners proclaim, that this breed produces very individual but companionable cats. Mrs. Marian Fletcher of Exeter, Ontario, for instance, says : " We have a TV, but our Aby goes across the street each evening about seven, perches himself on a neighbour's windowsill and watches their TV— apparently is following a serial."

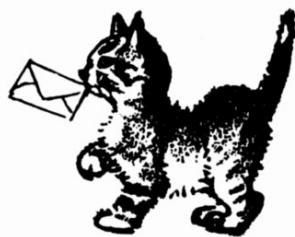
The magazine states that " at the moment there are not more than 25 owners of Abyssinian cats in Canada." This number is, in fact, quite remarkable because we believe that until Mrs. J. P. Marceau took a pair of Abyssinians with her when she returned to Canada after a stay in London, there were none in the country.

(continued on page 31)



Correspondence Corner

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



Striking it rich !

As you invite correspondence on subjects feline, here is a little item to amuse your readers.

We arranged to sell one of our Colour-points to a wealthy widow, so she flew in from Toronto (2,500 miles), collected the puss, and flew home. In two weeks she became so attached to it that she called in her lawyers to alter her will and made our puss her heir and beneficiary !

The cat has two eggs prepared with liver by the cook for its breakfast, and with stuffed beef heart, game, steak and an occasional olive manages to survive the rest of the day.

Now we have had a telephone call from anxious relatives who are wondering how long the cat is likely to live and who will out-live who.

MRS. D. J. BORRETT.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Not recognized

One thing in the Cat Fancy which irks me greatly is that Shaded Silvers are not recognized for Challenge and Championship purposes. It seems to me to be rather a Gilbertian situation that in one litter you can get a good Chinchilla (Best in Show) who could ultimately qualify for Challenges. Yet his little sister (Best Opposite Sex Kitten) can never even compete because she is not recognized.

I would like to hear from anyone in England who is interested as I am in the subject.

MISS S. M. TASKER.
194 Onepu Road, Lyall Bay,
Wellington E.3, New Zealand.

Real pals

So much has been written on the subject of cats and their inability to settle in a changed environment without adequate provision such as locking up in a room, buttering paws, etc., that my experience may prove interesting. It appears to be a well accepted idea that cats attach themselves to a house rather than a human ; but there must be some cats who do the reverse—or so it appears in my case.

Four years ago I purchased a lovely Blue Persian just before Christmas. An adorable wee fellow, he and I became great friends, and he accompanied me in my car whenever opportunity arose. Seven weeks later, when he was 6 months old, I took my annual vacation to Queenstown, some 120 miles inland from this coastal town where I live, and, reluctant to ask anyone to look after my valuable pet, Noddy, as I christened him, accompanied me.

At Queenstown, I rented a hut in the camping ground and a cardboard carton was Noddy's bed. Three days there, and, one evening, down in the township, a mile away, Noddy escaped through the open window of my car whilst I was shopping. I searched for him everywhere for nearly two hours. Finally, I returned disconsolately to camp with the thought I may have seen the last of him. In bed, about 11.30 p.m., I heard a slight noise just inside the door and put on the light to see Noddy sitting on the floor having a wash. How he found his way back to a place where he had only been three days is still a mystery. He was a very tired wee kitten and slept nearly all of next day.

Since then, I have increased my family by three more Persians, Honey, a lovely Cream, Sir Nigel, a Silver Tabby, and Bimbo, a Black. The four are firm pals, and have accompanied me on several occasions to Queenstown, Dunedin, Invercargill, and as I take a cabin in the camping grounds at the first two places, the cats are not confined and never stray.

Other campers are always intrigued at my camp pets and often ask if I am not afraid they will stray or be stolen but I've

Readers' contributions to this feature are always welcomed. . . . We could do with many more ! *Editor.*

never had any worry, because firstly, they will not allow strangers to get within touch, and secondly, as far as I know, they cannot be enticed by offers of food, etc.

Now, for the final chapter. Recently I built a new home about 100 yards further up the street from my old home. When I shifted in, just two weeks ago, I wondered whether my "boys" would revert down to the old place, especially as the new home is equipped with new furniture and furnishings, and all their associations in this respect have vanished. No trouble ! They made a thorough tour of inspection, and are quite content.

Only one, Honey, has revisited the old place, so the new occupant advises, and having made an inspection both inside and out, returned to his new home apparently quite satisfied.

The only theory I have is that I've made real pals of these four. They talk to me in their own language and I feel, in my own case, at least, it's not the house, but the person, to whom they are attached.

Incidentally, they are all show cats. Noddy possesses a silver cup and one Challenge Certificate but through an accident in playing with the others, had an eye irreparably damaged so that I had to have it removed. Honey has his Premiership, a gold medal, and a silver cup. Sir Nigel is just on the way with his first Challenge Certificate, whilst Bimbo, the baby, only has three firsts to date. All are neuter males.

I could fill pages on their antics and one of my great thrills is when I am home at week-ends. If I'm gardening, they are all sprawled around where I work. Sometimes it's on top of my vegetable crop but who am I to growl. I love to see them there. I may remark "Pity my onions, or peas," or whatever it is, but the damage is little compared with the pleasure of their company.

GEORGE H. MILLOW.
Riverton, New Zealand.

For Abyssinian Enthusiasts (*concluded from page 29*)

Whatever doubts may have been entertained about the adaptability of the breed have been set at rest. British bred Abyssinians have shown they are well able to deal with the extremes of the Canadian climate in all parts of the great country—there are now Abyssinians in Vancouver and Calgary as well as Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

At the end of the war there were fewer than 25 owners of Abyssinian cats in Britain and we do not doubt that when

the breed becomes well known in Canada, it will increase in popularity as rapidly as it has done in Britain and the United States during the last decade.

Certainly the Canadian Club has got off to a very good start with this News Letter. Mrs. Williamson is ensuring that future numbers will be equally varied and comprehensive and one of her ingenious ideas is to distribute "Contribution Sheets" to encourage Abyssinian owners to send her news and views.

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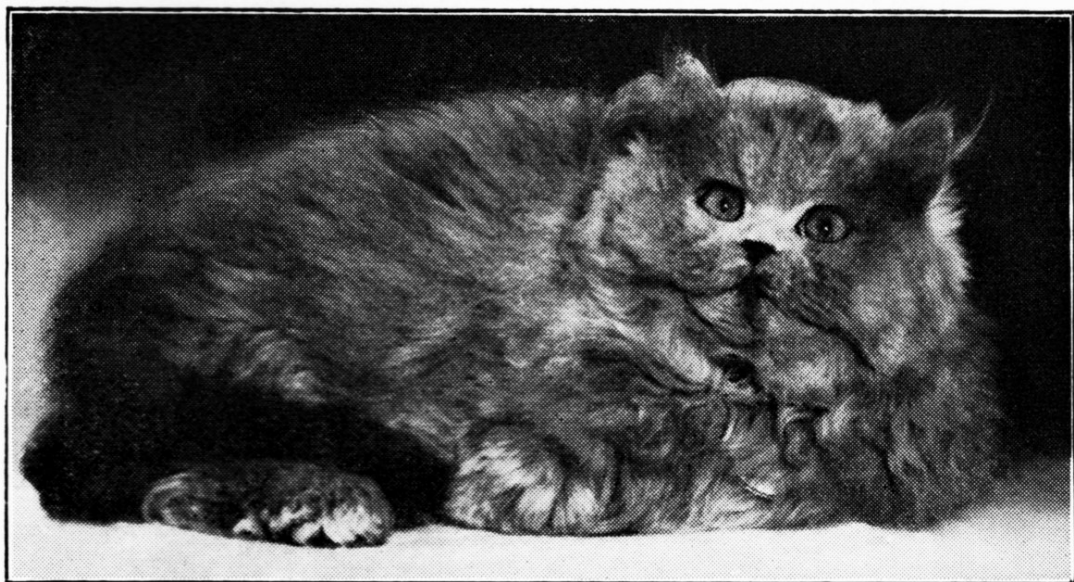
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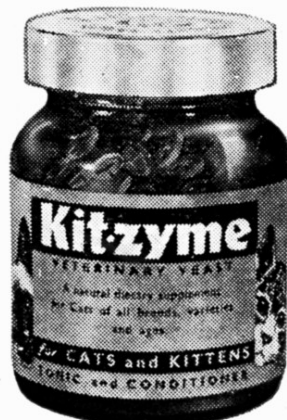
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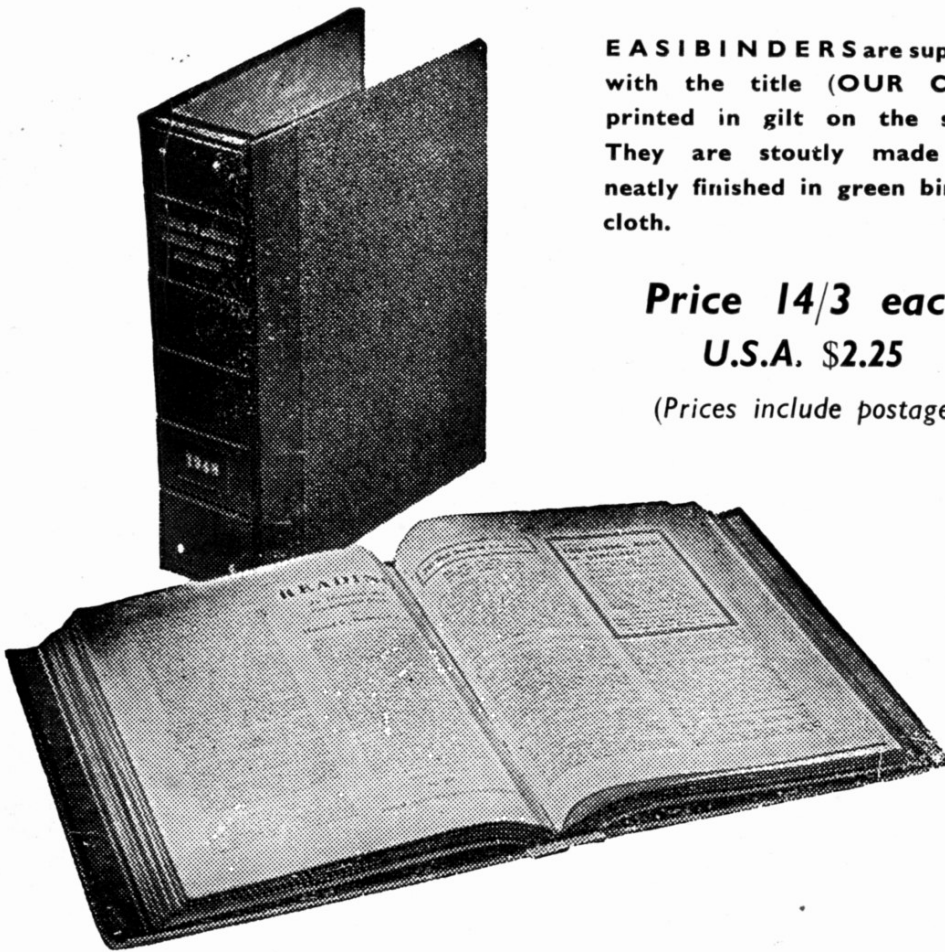
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