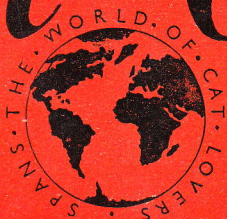
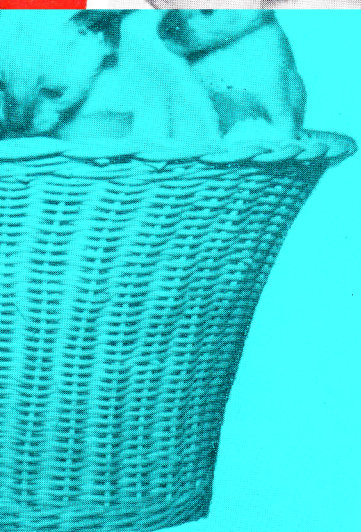


Our Cats

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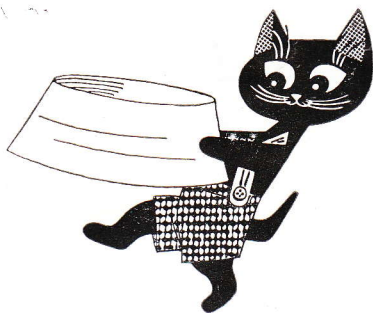


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OCTOBER 1956

A BASKETFUL OF MISCHIEF

They won't be in there for long—this lively Siamese litter bred by Mrs. C. F. Watson from Champion Bluehayes Foxy ex Nylons Lil.



**Full of fish — full of meat
The food that all cats love to eat.
Oh, isn't it a pity that
All kittens don't get Kit-E-Kat!**

Every cat needs Kit-E-Kat every day, because it's a complete food . . . fresh white fish *and* herring plus meat, as well as extra vitamins and minerals!

Kit-E-Kat is so easy and clean to serve, and there are several meals in every 9d tin.



All cats love
KIT-E-KAT

FRESH FISH AND MEAT — COOKED AND READY TO EAT



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.

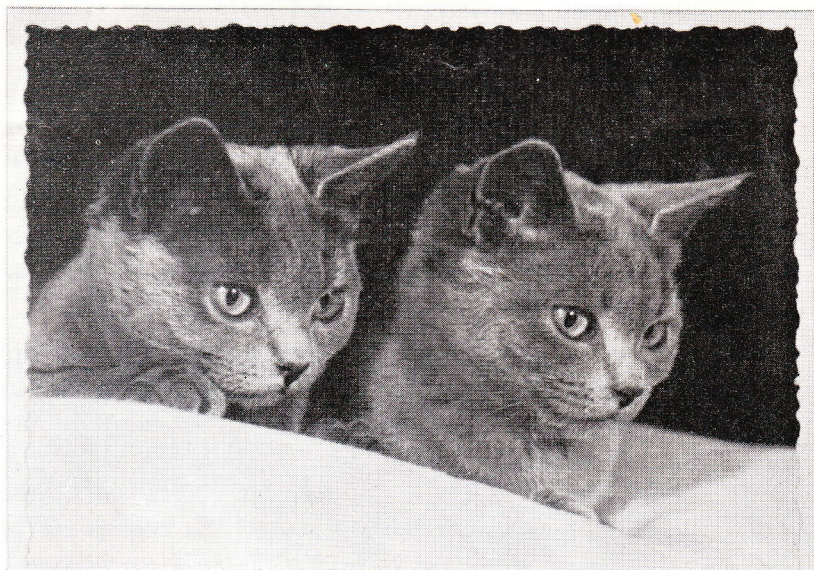
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Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Norman Wesling

CRYBABY and BLUEBELLE, a pair of bonny British Blue kittens bred by Mrs. Mary Johnson, of N.W. London.



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

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Christmas and the New Year are coming!

IN response to a number of requests and suggestions we have received from readers at home and overseas, we have decided to make the forthcoming December number of **OUR CATS**

A SPECIAL GREETINGS ISSUE

The idea is that it shall be an enlarged issue carrying a supplement devoted to Seasonal Greetings and Messages from the various cat organizations and members of the Fancy. **OUR CATS** is the ideal medium for this purpose as it is truly the link between cat lovers all over the world. The messages may, if desired, include a photograph of the sender and/or his or her cats.

This Special Issue must be ready for distribution by 1st December. This is important on account of the overseas distribution. Final date for the receipt of "copy" and blocks will therefore be November 8th and where we are required to have blocks (cuts) made from photographs, these should be supplied with complete instructions by not later than November 1st.

The rates for space have been fixed as low as production and distribution costs will allow. They are £5 10s. 0d. per page (type area $7\frac{1}{4}" \times 4\frac{1}{4}"$ wide), £3 per half-page, £1 15s. 0d. per quarter-page and £1 per one-eighth page. For the Americas the rates are 20 dollars per page, 12 dollars per half-page and 7 dollars per quarter-page. The cost of making blocks (cuts) will be charged extra. The average cost of a half-tone block for our page is £1 7s. 6d. (for the Americas 4 dollars).

We look forward very much to an enthusiastic response to this idea. For our part we shall do everything possible to make the Supplement really attractive and worthy of the occasion.

Let's send 1956 out on a great big wave of goodwill to every corner of the cat world. Heaven only knows the rest of the world can do with a little!

Please send your enquiries, instructions and remittances as early as possible to **OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9.**

Manx—their breeding and rearing

By JESSIE M. TWINING, who lives in the Isle of Man and has bred and worked for the advancement of the tail-less Manx cat for a number of years.

I THINK this breed is one of the most difficult to manage, but it is also one of the most fascinating, though at times one can be very disappointed when one gets a litter of stumpys and tails, even though the parents are perfect specimens.

But do not despair, the next litter by the same parents may have one or two real Rumpys. You will hardly ever get 100 per cent pure Rumpys. By pure, I mean without any sign of a stump or piece of cartilage or tuft of hair. If either the dam or sire has a single bone joint you will often breed better Rumpys (but not always); to a certain extent it seems to prevent weakness in the spine.

I have only once had three pure Rumpys in a litter. This mating was

between a stumpy and pure Rumpy. One was born dead, the others died during the next twenty-four hours. The dam was the stumpy. I had bred her from four generations of pure Rumpys and thought she would be all right mated to a pure Rumpy, but evidently the lethal strain must have been too strong.

Some queens seem to produce Rumpys more frequently than others. The only thing is to try until you find one who, mated to a certain stud, has one or two really good Rumpys in her litters and keep to this mating.

My first Manx and foundation of my cattery, "Kerroy," has been wonderful. Though mated to different studs she has only once had a litter without Rumpys. She has bred three Champions, but alas! I cannot say this of my other queens.

Though I have bred so many Manx,



Three kittens bred by the author include (on the left) Greeba White Bishop who subsequently became a Champion

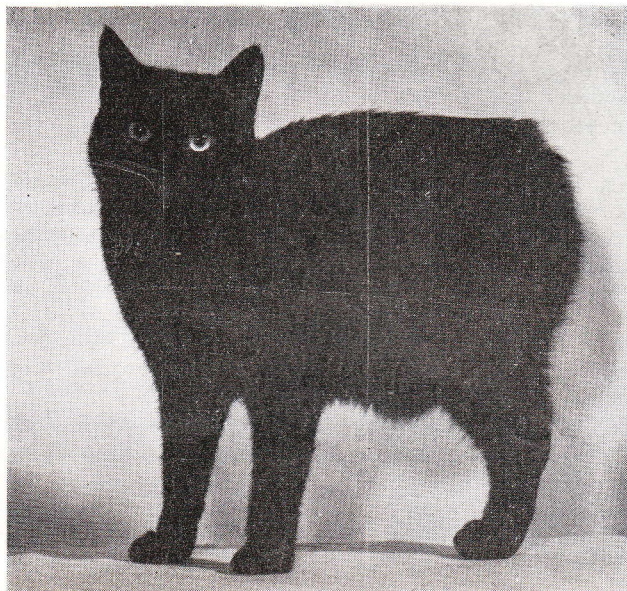


Photo by "Muzzie"

Here is the true Manx outline. Triple Champion MRS. KELLY OF AN-SI (bred by Mrs. Twining) was exported to American fancier Mrs. Ann Bieneman, of Pittsburgh.

I still get quite excited when the babies are due. On the Island (unless one keeps a stud) Rumpys, stumpys and tailed are all mixed up, so it is often possible to get a really good Rumpy with one of the parents having a long tail, provided the tailed parent is of Manx blood.

Since the Isle of Man Manx Cat Association was formed, the standard of breeding has greatly improved and more interest is taken in producing a really pure Rumpy. Anyone wishing to be quite certain of buying a pure Rumpy can always ask for a certificate from a veterinary surgeon besides the one on health which has to be sent along with a kitten or cat exported to the U.S.A.

Now to the rearing, which is not as easy as it sounds. Manx require very special care for the first three or four months of their lives; in fact, care is needed until six months of age, but the first three or four months are the most important.

Having no tail brings its own problems, i.e., if one is not very careful with the feeding after weaning you will be sure to get bowel trouble of one sort or another, either diarrhoea or constipation. With care both these can be avoided, unless the kitten has some malformation or is a real weakling. In this case it is not worth rearing.

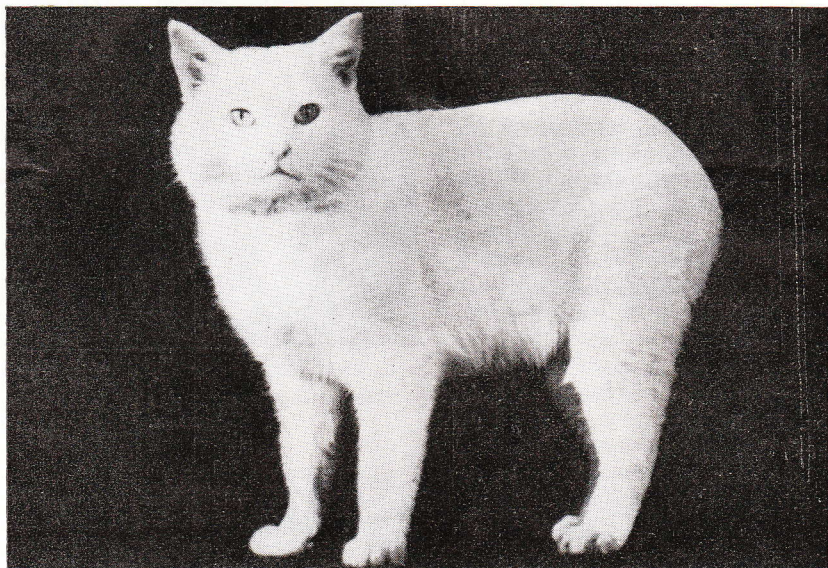
When the kittens are born, see that the mother is able to feed them. I have had one or two litters in which the kittens kept crying. This is unusual after the mother has settled down. I found out on examining the mother that the milk was congealed in the teats and quite hard, consequently the kittens were unable to suckle. If you very gently massage the teats and then more gently still squeeze the teats until the congealed matter is out, you will find the milk will flow quite easily and the kittens are able to suckle. I lost one or two kittens until I found this out. This only happens with certain mothers.

When the kittens are old enough to move around, watch them carefully to see if they have a bowel movement. This is when the trouble starts. There will often be one that keeps straining but gets no movement. In this case give half a small teaspoonful of liquid paraffin (or mineral oil as it is sometimes called) once a day until you find the kitten has a motion, then once or twice a week for a short time.

If on the other hand the kitten starts with a looseness of the bowel, give Bengers Food made as for invalids, i.e., it must stand away from all heat for fifteen to twenty minutes before the final boiling up. When nearly cold give

the milk bottle is excellent. Then twice a day and then every four hours. When the kittens can lap well, give a little Farex. Every other day give a pinch of calcium lactate mixed in the milk and a few drops of cod liver oil on the alternate days, but do not give this in the Farex.

A little beaten up egg on stale bread crumbs as they get older is excellent and when old enough for solid food start with one tablespoonful per day, given in two separate feeds, raw minced meat or cooked meat cut very fine. Fish mixed with stale bread crumbs or given alone is good, but see there are no bones left in. Increase these amounts as the kittens



S. R. Keig

A lovely White Manx bred by the author—BIANCO—and aptly named !

two teaspoons every two hours, or you can give a little arrowroot made with boiled milk. Sometimes a little raw, scraped meat or a little cooked lean meat cut very fine will answer better than anything else.

Feeding must be a little at a time and often. All liquid food must be given slightly warm, or the kittens will not assimilate it. Start with two teaspoonfuls a day of very creamy milk, the top of

get older, but do not give any sloppy food.

In the Island there is a strong belief that a Manx kitten must never have pure milk, it must be diluted with water ; if given pure it will die. This is of course nonsense; it is just because the kitten's bowels have not been watched, and it has become thoroughly constipated, and if not relieved it will die. But there are cases when the bowel is weak, or there is

(continued on page 8)

THE BUSINESS CAT

By JOANNA MACKAY

THE drive for proper cat care is the main reason why the Cats' Protection League organizes a competition for business cats every year. The fourth contest was judged early in July by the League's Public Relations Officer, Miss Kit Wilson.

It must have meant a lot of hard work, for the judge does not see all the cats in a hall. She visits each one at home or place of business. There she does not judge the cat as a cat or as she would at a show for pedigree animals. Instead, she assesses its condition and the conditions under which it lives.

Certain questions are asked, too. Where does the cat sleep? How is it fed? What arrangements are made for short and long holidays. Very often, she finds that someone takes it home. Important is whether the animal is neutered. Non-neutered cats are disqualified at once. After that, the judge wants to know what facilities the cat has for getting out. Exercise is necessary, even when there's an earth box. Finally, how did the shop get the cat? Often, it turns out that it walked in as a stray to be brought up by the staff.

It isn't the Cat

No fee is charged for entry, though anyone who wants to give a donation may do so. The C.P.L. wants to see cats well looked-after and to check misguided efforts to get rid of them on the grounds that they are dirty. All the cats Miss Wilson saw were spotless. She would like to have shown those who have been instrumental in getting shop cats destroyed, the dirty mice and the assistants' dirty coats (in some cases) and the customers dropping cigarette ash all over food.



M. R. Hewlett

The author's own pet is Semolina Silkpaws.

Two silver cups are awarded. Winner this year of that for the best Kensington cat was Nelson, eight-year-old ginger and white. He belongs to a tobacconist, Mr. Nicholls of Portobello Road. Winner of the cup for the best cat outside Kensington was James, cat at a fruit shop in Curzon Street in the West End of London. The contest is advertised in various papers and news is spread by word of mouth.

Veterinary questions answered

By M.R.C.V.S.

Regarding Ringworm

A WELSH reader asks : *Could you please give me some information regarding ringworm in cats—the symptoms, treatment and method of cleaning away all infection in the buildings of the cattery to ensure it does not occur again? Some incidents have been brought to my notice lately of cats contracting this complaint and in two cases of pedigree cats the attendant vet has said it was incurable and advised the destruction of the animals, to the distress and financial loss of the owners. When I heard of these cases the animals were dead, so it was too late to do anything. Is there any form of ringworm which is incurable?*

M.R.C.V.S. replies : For treatment of local spots of ringworm one can apply an 0·2 per cent phenyl mercuric chloride ointment allowing this to act not longer than three hours and then removing. Another remedy is phenyl mercuric acetate (1 : 750). This is the active principle of "Mersa-gel" made by the Glaxo Company. For a more generalized infection one can apply a spirit lotion consisting of phenyl mercuric chloride (1 : 500) which can, if necessary, be applied to the whole body. It may be applied several days running if occasion occurs.

The animal should be clipped short, carefully burning the clippings; and, of course, suspected animals should be isolated. Attendants should thoroughly wash their hands after handling infected

cats. Cats may carry the infection for a considerable time without showing any lesions. I am not in a position to state exactly how long. Any chemist will advise you upon, and sell you the materials for fumigating buildings.

"Fading" Kittens

A Nottingham reader asks : *I am wondering if you can help me with a problem concerning one of my Siamese queens? She is now aged ten years and has always been an excellent mother up to her last three litters. With these latter litters, her milk appears to be plentiful before the kittens arrive, but in each case all but one of the kittens has "faded out," usually within a week. On one occasion one of her remaining kittens survived for a month. These litters were six, four and four. I cannot help feeling that it is the milk that is at fault, in spite of extra vitamins, Lactol and plenty of milky foods for some weeks before her kittens are born. Can you suggest anything that would tend to increase the milk supply and keep it going whilst she is feeding her kittens. No doubt her age has something to do with these difficulties.*

M.R.C.V.S. replies : I rather suspect that the kittens were affected with B/haemolytic streptococcus, a ready cause of fading puppies and kittens. Another possible cause might be incompatible blood groups of the sire and dam.

SUMFUN SIAMESE seal-pointed PRIZE WINNING KITTENS FOR SALE

from Queens	SUMFUN SHIKARI	SUMFUN TITANIA
Sire	CH. PRESTWICK PENGILIMA-PERTAMA	CH. PRESTWICK BLUE CRACKERS
Dam	SUMFUN MOOTH	SUMFUN SHIKARI



Mrs Mary Dunnill
The Garth
High Lane
HASLEMERE
Surrey

Telephone : Haslemere 1701

I suggest you change the sire in future and have your queen vaccinated at once with anti-BHS Vaccine, which can be obtained from Dr. T. Hare, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., 53a Finchley Road, London, N.W., at the same time explaining to him your difficulty. Should any of the new litter die, I advise wrapping the kitten in formalin-saturated cotton wool and posting it immediately to Dr. Hare, who would make cultures of the organisms found. The body must arrive fairly fresh. As regards augmenting the queen's milk secretion, stilboestrol is credited with this effect if given by mouth in small doses, say $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mg. daily. Or chorionic gonadotrophin could be injected s/c ; 200 i.u. of Pregnyl would be useful soon after parturition and again in about three or four days.

A Stoppage

A Devon reader asks : Please would you advise me on how to treat my Persian type grey cat, a neutered male aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, weight around 20 lbs. fairly active, with plenty of fields and gardens permitting exercise. He has never vomited swallowed fur from cleaning but I have noticed it in his motions when he has had to use his box. About three months ago he had a very bad go with a fur stoppage and eventually I got him clear with oil and enemata. But it

left him very poorly. Now I fear he has another stoppage. He has watery diarrhoea and strains at times with no result. He is not eating very well and drinking very little. Yet his nose is cold and he is as friendly and full of purrs as he is normally. He has his daily Tibs and eats a little at a time, but soon refuses more. He cleans himself and passes urine normally. So far the only treatment I have given him is a daily dose of liquid paraffin in hopes it will ease the passing of this fur mass.

M.R.C.V.S. replies : If you feel the cat has a fur ball, I think the only rational treatment is lots of water and two doses daily of paraffin by mouth and warm enemas. If there ensues a real stoppage it may become a surgical problem. The presence of much hair in the stomach or bowel would impart a "doughy" feeling if one grasped the abdomen between one's fingers. Oft repeated grooming is about the best preventive.

Readers who would like "M.R.C.V.S." to deal with their veterinary problems should write to him c/o OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope when a direct reply is preferred.

MANX BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT *(concluded from page 5)*

some malformation and the bowel never does act properly, then the kitten very seldom lives. I always give very creamy milk but not thick cream.

The kittens require plenty of sleep. After playing see they get their full rest in a warm box out of draughts and when old enough to run outside do not leave them long at a time. Keep them away from cold winds or they might get a chill or sore eyes.

For a chill give a few drops of brandy in a teaspoonful of warm water. You will have to spoon feed this and be very careful in giving the dose in case you

choke your kitten. If sick after food try and find out what is the cause. It is a good plan to miss a feed and put on to Bengers Food (predigested) until the sickness has passed.

The best way to bring Manx kittens up is to use a lot of common sense and watch the bowels very carefully. If there is any sign of real illness or temperature, send for your veterinary surgeon.

Once your baby Manx have turned six months it is very seldom they will give you any trouble. They will be a constant source of pleasure and they are always grand companions.

Cats amid history

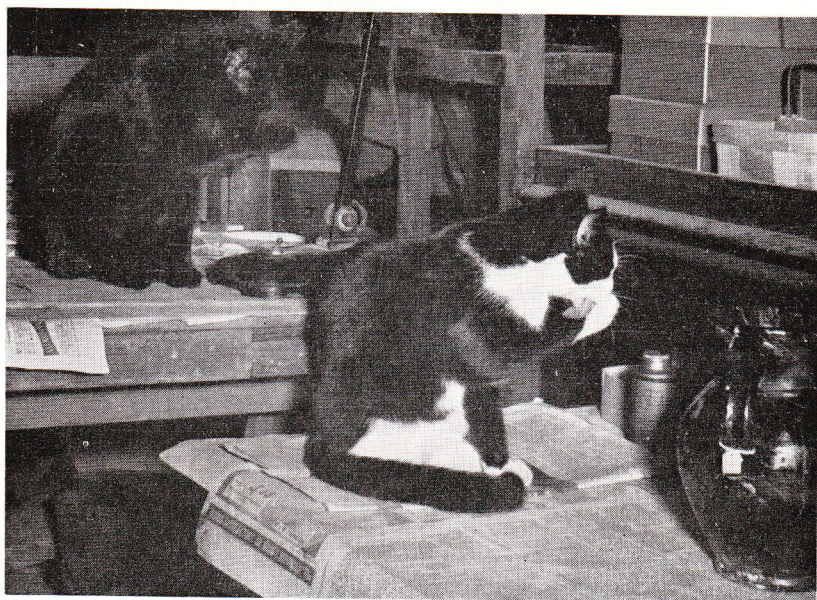
By AUDREY NOËL HUME

MINNIE is a true Cockney cat, born within the sound and shadow of Bow Bells—or their modern recorded counterpart—in one of the ruined buildings that, in the immediate post-war years, lined busy Cheapside. Her parents were just two of the great army of stray cats who relied for their lives on the food provided by kindly office workers and animal welfare societies but who were rarely seen during the daylight hours.

Minnie, however, is an ambitious cat and like any good parent, was determined to give her children a good start in life. So five years ago she gave birth to twins beneath the dais of London's Guildhall. Within the walls who have looked down

on such historic figures as Lady Jane Grey, Charles I and Samuel Pepys, one all black kitten and one with large white markings took their first shaky steps. For some weeks City government and ceremony was carried on over the heads of the family, while to their home came a stream of interested visitors. Minnie soon learnt to ignore their looks but to accept their presents and gradually became more accustomed to human beings.

Eventually it was decided to evacuate the family to a less public place and they were transferred to an upper room where they quickly settled down. Homes were found for the kittens but even after their departure Minnie continued in residence. Her home was extremely well situated for in the room immediately beneath it



Splash and Minnie at their toilet among the treasures of the past.

all the food for the many banquets and receptions held in Guildhall is prepared.

On these occasions Minnie is always much in evidence and although not allowed inside this kitchen she takes up a strategic position immediately outside the door and casts baleful eyes at the heaped dishes of meat and poultry which are borne past her to the guests in the hall below. However, she knows that with the departure of the diners her vigil will be rewarded with a plate of scraps and a bowl of milk. On one occasion Minnie could not wait for her normal gifts and slipping past the waiters she ventured into the hall and seizing a luscious asparagus roll, bore it off to the safety of a deserted corner of the building.

Carton for a Nursery

Minnie's next family, two charming black and white females, were born in less distinguished if equally interesting circumstances. Their home for the first weeks of their lives was a large cardboard carton containing fragments of pottery excavated from the famous "Temple of Mithras" in a store-room belonging to Guildhall Museum. Perhaps it was her birthplace which made the twin for whom a home has never been found, choose the museum laboratory to be her future day-time home. I also suspect the fact that Minnie rarely comes here had something to do with her choice.

Splash, as she was christened, is content to wait outside the laboratory door with reasonable patience until the staff arrive to let her in. Then with a series of long bounds she chases across the room to see whether on the preceding afternoon she could have left any milk in her saucer and then—because there never is even a trace left—to make quite

sure that everybody knows that she is hungry.

Once this state of affairs has been rectified Splash is ready to play. She climbs and scampers in the tiers of shelves which line the walls and pauses only to rouse some fat spider from its sleep. Should she feel like a rest there are many ways of taking it. She may rest on a windowsill and watch the antics of City pigeons and sparrows or if she needs warmth there are numbers of wire trays suspended over gas radiators.

Nothing Broken

The huge Ali-Baba type jars which once brought wine to Roman Britain have dark, mysterious depths which Splash considers to make excellent hiding places for surplus food and which have occasionally enabled her to hide from the attentions of Minnie. Splash likes to watch other people at work and will sit motionless for long spells watching some one repairing a piece of pottery or glass. She is intrigued by the tubes of oil paint which are the stock in trade of a pottery restorer and will often try and carry them off to one of her secret hoards. Unlike her mother, Splash has never been fond of appearing in public and seems to prefer the things of the past to the people of the future. It is to her eternal credit that during her long residence among all the fragile and precious objects in the museum that not a single thing has been broken by her actions.

Minnie's record is not quite so good for in her haste to reach a proffered titbit she once knocked over a jug which was in course of repair. Splash's only damage to date has been the knocking out of several teeth from a human skull which seemed to fascinate her.



That Siamese "wedge"

By IVOR RALEIGH

A GREAT number of words have been written about a problem which has at its focus the head shape of the Siamese cat.

The Siamese Cat Club requires the head to show breadth between the ears and to taper evenly and without more than a rudimentary whisker break to a fine muzzle, "like the head of a marten." This requirement is clearly open to a variety of interpretations for in more precise terms, the Schedule of Points lays down that a Siamese head, in plan, shall have the form of an isosceles triangle, which, as everyone knows may be drawn in an infinite number of ways.

As to the proportion between the base and median of such a triangle, no requirements have been laid down and we are therefore faced with a curious situation wherein cats with long heads appear to please some judges, while many noted breeders complain that the Siamese cat is beginning to look more and more like a ferret.

Faced with these conflicting views at a high level, it is not surprising that the unfortunate novice finds it difficult to decide what to look for when buying a Siamese. My advice to him is not to bother about it.

A good cat is not a product of geometrical algebra. It owes its excellence not to any one feature, but rather to a harmonious combination of qualities blended in correct measure and whether its head be long or of medium length is of very little moment, providing it is aesthetically proportioned in relation to

the rest of its body, and is essentially wedge shaped and not round.

One could take several Champion Siamese each of whose features conform to the high standard required in a Champion and produce a grotesque parody by swapping over a head here or a body there. In this exchange, none of the individual features could possibly lose their excellence and yet, once the magic of perfect balance disappears, very little is left.

The true value of any composition rests finally upon its artistic merit and one reason why judges sometimes disagree is that they have in their minds eye a standard of beauty which is essentially an individual one and a bad judge is not so much one who judges differently, but one who has little eye for beauty.

Guide for the judge

It should not be thought that the gift of artistic appreciation is one which cannot be developed. A friend of mine who is a teacher of singing has told me of many instances where pupils with beautiful voices and poor sense of pitch, or with absolute pitch and mediocre tonal quality, would come to him for lessons. After a few years of careful and devoted work a good sense of relative pitch would be developed and poor timbre would improve beyond recognition as a result of training in correct voice production.

Nevertheless, some individuals are so lacking in musical appreciation that no amount of training can do much for them. In the same way, some people could never develop the artistic qualities needed to pick out a good cat as being

better than another good cat and fortunately, such people often recognize their failing.

In the light of what I have said, it becomes clear that the Schedule of Points is merely intended as an important guide and certainly not as a "bible" which must be adhered to "though the heavens fall." Many people have criticized our points allocation on one ground or another and one often hears people say that the points given for condition are disproportionately small. A little thought would at once show that a cat out of condition could not possibly be a beautiful cat; however good it might be when well groomed and in full health, it could never create in the mind of a competent judge the sort of picture which would justify a high award.

Natural beauty

In some Fancies, particularly in those in which one is allowed to "improve on nature" by clipping or otherwise altering the coat of an animal, judging often becomes a highly complicated science and the judge may have to subdue his sense of aesthetic rightness and adhere, at least in part, to a purely artificial concept. Cats are fortunately shown without such hypothetical aids. All of God's creatures possess a measure of natural beauty if we but have the eyes to see it; and so, within the framework of a Schedule of Points, a beautiful cat is always a good cat.

MYSTERY

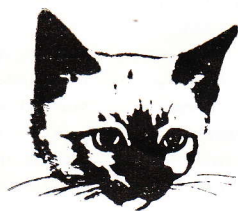
One often hears from breeders whose kittens have mysteriously vanished and several theories attempt to account for these strange disappearances. Some breeders believe that marauding males steal the kittens while others hold to the view that the mother cat occasionally takes her babies away to a different nest because she dislikes the one which has been provided for her.

My Siamese queen, Hymers Penelope, has just had a mongrel litter of four little black babies. All five were sleeping in their basket under a kitchen table on the evening following the kittens' birth. My wife and I had gone to a cinema and our housekeeper was in the next room watching television. When she returned to the kitchen, she noticed only one kitten in the basket. The kitchen window was open and there was blood on the sill. There were a few drops of blood on the garden path below the sill. An exhaustive search failed to locate the missing babies nor could their cries be heard in the still evening air. The mother cat was put out into the garden but made no effort to go to the kittens, something she would have done had she hidden them away.

Penny is a most devoted mother and growls ferociously even if our own cats come near her babies. She would have fought like a tigress had a strange cat appeared, yet there was no sign of a struggle.

I wonder what happened?

I.R.



Bush Cat

By ISOBEL JENNINGS

FERGUS McIVER is undoubtedly a bush cat—not a wild cat, though we wonder sometimes. “Bush” in West African terminology means uncivilized, and that he certainly is. He was brought to our verandah one steaming hot morning by an old African labourer, who beamed all over his expansive black countenance.

“I tink Madam like cat,” he stated emphatically. Sure enough we fell at once for the tiny, shivering, scratching, scrawny bundle of black and grey fur. For half a crown he was ours.

He did not look handsome. His ears were laid back from a thin, pointed, elfin face, his claws stretched out to cling to any reassuring object. He crouched pathetically, mewing pitcously, his pale blue eyes wide with the terror of the unknown. We made haste to comfort him with warm milk. Too soon, however, was he reconciled to his new circumstances!

Utterly unrepentant of his many small sins of commission on our polished floor, his confidence increased daily and he wiled his way into our hearts and lives. He was so very comic. Incorrigibly inquisitive, he had soon investigated every corner with interest and delight. Because of his liveliness, he was named “Fergus McIver,” after the first Scottish dance we learnt in Africa.

The domestic cat in Africa is a wilder breed than that in Britain. Many have some admixture of Persian or Siamese, from “luxury” cats brought in by expatriates. Some have traces of wild-cat blood, which shows in exceptionally

lovely markings of the “tabby” kind. We feel sure that Fergus is one of these.

He is smooth furred and sleek, his body long and lean, his face round and beautifully proportioned above a sharp-pointed chin. His fur is light tawny grey, the tawny colour being most pronounced on the back. The markings consist of lines and rings of velvety, jet-black fur, which show up with great clarity, like the figurings in polished wood. This grain runs around his body from spine to flank, becoming more pronounced from tail to head, and culminating in two majestic necklets which sweep across his fine white chest.

Bracelets *en echelon* decorate his dainty rounded front paws, whilst his powerful hind paws are unmarked.

From the back of his neck five narrow lines converge inwards and forwards, the outer pair to reach the inner corners of the eyes, the inner three to end between the ears in an inverted V. Bold brush-strokes descend from the outer corners of the eyes to disappear into the soft grey fur of the neck, one above, and one below the level of each eye, giving him a quaint, brigandish watchfulness of expression.

A fine tail

If Fergus is proud of these charming features he doesn't show it, all his pride being reserved for his truly magnificent tail. This is gracefully long and thick, gently tapering to a pointed tip. The markings at the base are continuous with the relatively indistinct markings at the end of the spine. Gradually becoming more distinct and wider towards the extremity, they culminate in two complete black

circles and a long black tip. It is these circles, and the brush-stroke eye marks, which are reputedly the insignia of wild-cat blood.

Now Fergus is a grown cat, he has outgrown much of his kittenish playfulness. Much, but by no means all. Most is translated into adult terms of serious hunting, and gross sexual passion—the latter somewhat circumscribed by the lamentable shortage of female pussies in the vicinity. Suspicions of wildness overtake him at times, for little obvious reason. Then, we, at least, have no doubt of his ancestry.

Jungle fever

Ears laid back, willow-green eyes round and flashing, body sinous as a snake, he tears round the house in wild, flying, leaping springs, utterly possessed, as stealthy as a panther, as bold as a lion, as dead as a tiger . . . and as lovable as a child playing soldiers.

I called him a bush cat, uncivilized. He is entirely uninhibited, without conscience, though not without guile, utterly brash in ardent self-seeking. His piteous mewling at our bedroom

window, for instance, at the early morning tea hour, his subsequent purrings and nestlings when we let him in, all vanish into cool indifference once the milk saucer has descended. He is among the few cats who will accompany one on a walk.

Will he stay ?

Since we acquired Fergus nine months ago, we have had to leave him in the care of neighbours twice for nearly a fortnight. Each time, he has struck up a casual friendship with the strange household, only to treat us with more than usual friendship for days on our return. But we sadly contemplate the length of our coming leave in England, when we must leave him for ten weeks.

Will his memory, his affections, and his love of comfort stand the strain ? Or will his natural self-sufficiency be re-asserted, in our absence, so that he returns to the abandoned life of the bush, with its freedom, its excellent hunting, and, of course, its worms and its ticks ? But if he does "go for bush," we shall mourn the loss of a well-loved pet and a great personality.

Let's go to a Show

We urge our readers to attend as many cat shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show fixtures for the 1956-57 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1956	Promoted by	Venue
7 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club	London
24 November ...	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
24 November ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association	Epsom
24 November ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club	Leeds
4 December ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society	London
15 December ...	*National Cat Club	London
1957		
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club	Nottingham
22 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
9 February ...	*Lancashire and N.W.C. Cat Club	Stockport, near Manchester

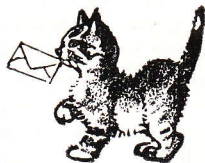
*Denotes show with Championship status

A detailed list of shows can be obtained from the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. Don't forget to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.



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.



Country Cats

Some kind person unknown to me sent me a copy of OUR CATS. I was delighted with it and immediately placed an order with my newsagent.

I was deeply interested in the article "Legion of the Lost" by Kit Wilson in the August issue. An ardent lover of cats, I am grieved and shocked by the number of uncared-for cats that one sees everywhere. I own a small snack bar and sweet shop and the kiddies who come in to buy tell me all about their own pets and often ask my advice. I take every opportunity to encourage these children to care for their cats and to treat them gently. My own two pets Pip and Squeak are well known in the village and have many admirers.

All too often in the country cats are allowed to breed on farms where they grow wild and are frequently near to starvation.

MRS. DORA CLARK,
Longframlington, Northumberland.

South African Cat Club

In the letter in your August issue from the Hon. Secretary of this most enterprising new cat club, it is stated that the entry at their Championship Show, Durban, May, 1956, was a record for this country. It is not actually the record, which is held by the Siamese Cat Society of S.A., but is a record in various other aspects. It is the record for entries for shows this season so far, it is the record entry for any new club's first show, and it certainly holds the record for a "member's only," as I think I am right in stating that no members of other cat clubs showed that day—a few of the public did.

This show also broke the record for the number of Chinchillas shown, there were 26 cats and kittens entered, a few of these "Blue Chinchillas" were in the household pets class. Several of them were imported cats, and several were also litter brothers and sisters—pity the poor judge!

With this new and enthusiastic cat club, the Cat Fancy in South Africa can be very pleased.

MRS. EUNICE GLUCKMAN,
Bryanston, Transvaal, South Africa.

Intellectual Capacity

Ivor Raleigh's article "Are Cats Intelligent?" (September issue) is very aptly countered by your amusing picture on the next page! I wonder by what standard he assesses his own intelligence?

Cats and family lines of cats, like human beings, vary greatly in intellectual capacity, but the operative thing with both of us is not so much the capacity but the will to learn. "Life," as Herbert Spencer put it, "is not for work or learning, but learning and work are for life" or in Samuel Butler's paraphrase, one should always be sure one has a use for knowledge before one acquires it. There may be either of two reasons for not acquiring it—one, that one has not the intelligence to do so—the other that one's head is already occupied with knowledge of far greater value or utility.

Intelligence tests are generally composed of questions which appear quite ridiculous to the ordinary person and can therefore have a boomerang effect. Those who rely on them should always remember the London school child, who stared blankly throughout her tests and convinced her examiner that her I.Q.

was nil. As she left, however, she was heard to remark to the next entrant : " 'Ere, you watch aht in there ! She's barmy." " Thim " would probably have been my "sintiments intoirely"—and also the cat's.

So when you rate at a mere 2 the intelligence of cats, who can read a thought even as it flashes into my mind and can direct me by their mere gaze what to do in a clinical emergency, really Mr. Raleigh !

MISS GERTRUDE M. CAMFIELD,
Worthing, Sussex.

A news item from South Africa reports the pathetic case of a lonely 80-years-old lady who, when her health began to fail, withdrew to her small room with its few sticks of furniture and devoted all her time and failing energy to the care of her pet cat McGregor. She actually went without food in order that McGregor should be sustained. Eventually, the old lady was discovered in a desperate condition by a friend and assistance was immediately forthcoming.

* * *

The lowest subscription to the Cats' Protection League is now 10s. 6d. for associate membership, which includes a monthly copy of the League's official journal, *The Cat*. The subscription of 5s. for the magazine only has had to be abolished on account of the rising costs of printing and distribution.

* * *

There's been a spot of trouble brewing down at Stock, near Chelmsford, and the bravery of two schoolgirls has been the main topic of conversation among the locals. Kathleen Moore (14) and her sister Moira (11) were on their way to school when they heard the hounds of the Essex Union Foxhunt in full cry. They ran to see what was happening and there in a garage they saw a cat being attacked by the hounds. They rushed in among the dogs in a brave attempt to rescue the cat and Kathleen was bitten on the hand. Only when the huntsman's horn sounded did the hounds leave the scene. The League Against Cruel Sports has prepared a dossier and I understand that the R.S.P.C.A. has been asked to investigate the incident.



Well-known show winners Bayhorne Adam and Aviary Honeysuckle have produced this promising litter for Hampshire fancier Mrs. H. M. Todd, of Alton.



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

Show in Kent

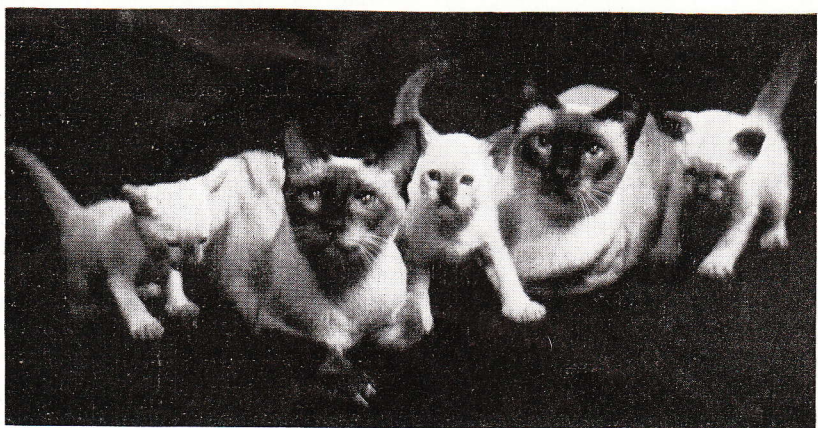
THE Kentish Cat Society Show at the Pantiles Pump Room, Tunbridge Wells, on September 8th, attracted many spectators and the gate appeared to be one of the best this Society has had. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper, of Tonbridge, made a successful bow as joint show managers and appeared to enjoy the work of organization. We were delighted that the President, Sir H. G. Tyrwhitt-Drake, accompanied by Lady Tyrwhitt-Drake, was able to be with us. He made a brief speech and presented the rosettes. Later they toured the hall with Mrs. K. R. Williams and were very interested in the exhibits.

The Longhair entry of thirty cats and kittens was disappointing; ten adults (with two absent) was poor support, especially as the classification was generous. Among the twenty kittens there were several absentees. The Pantiles Pump Room is an attractive venue but Tunbridge Wells is too far from London,

especially for breeders living north or north-west, to attract a really big entry. In my opinion, a well known Kentish town nearer London would effect a big improvement in this respect. Kent is a stronghold of Siamese breeders so their entry was excellent: 37 Seal Points, 6 Blue Points, 3 Chocolate Points, 2 litters and 19 handsome neuters which included celebrities such as Mrs. Hooper's Premier Behenta Yu Phin and several who had previously been awarded Premier Certificates at Championship shows.

Mrs. Montgomery gave generous support to this section by bringing five of her "boys" all the way from Thundersley in Essex, among them Purland Som Phong (by Ch. Clonlost Yo-Yo) who was best S.H. Neuter, and lovely Day-break who was such a consistent winner as a kitten last season. She adores Siamese but doesn't breed them because it would be too heartbreaking parting with the kittens. All her five neuters agree and have a happy life as house pets.

The chief awards were: Best Longhair Cat—Mrs. Stephenson's Blue Male Ashdown Nuthatch by Woburn Sunshine; Best Shorthair Cat—Mr. and Mrs. Glover's Seal Point Siamese Southwood Marcus by Ch. Killdown Jupiter; Best Longhair Kitten—Mrs. Orpin's Blue Male Robhurst Rudolph by Martin's Nephew; Best Shorthair Kitten—Miss Ann Codrington's Seal Point Siamese Female Watermill Trudi Lou; Best Longhair Neuter—Mrs. Trevor's Chinchilla, Premier Arctic Snow. Among



*Photos by Juliet Haddon
Photos by Isambert*

Presenting the Martin Family. The two Chinchillas, BLUECROFT CAMEO (right) and her son FAIRYTALE ADONIS by Jamie of Thame, belong to Mr. Martin, of St. Albans, Herts, whose wife Eileen "lays claim" to the Siamese—DEVORAN DAINTY LADY and her three kittens. Mrs. Martin explains that BELVIC BOUQUET, on the right, is "the nanny" who refused to be left out of the picture.

the well known visitors I noticed Major Dugdale and Miss Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Brunton and Rosemary, Mr. and Mrs. Boulton and Miss Jury. There were many strange faces among the spectators and one surmises they were "locals."

In Glorious Devon

The Silver Jubilee Ch. Show of the South Western Counties' Cat Club at Paignton, Devon, on September 26th attracted an entry of 215 exhibits.

The Summer Pavilion was spacious and nicely decorated and the wide platform an asset to those helping with the clerical work, but one of the first essentials was lacking and that was proper daylight which only filtered through an entire canvas roof. There were no windows round the sides to which exhibits could be taken unless one went through a door to a room in which Mr. J. A. Norman the hon. veterinary surgeon had vetted the exhibits. Even the Whites and Chinchillas which usually sparkle in a subdued light failed to look their best, and as usual the Blues suffered most as it accentuated every variation in shade and played havoc with eye colour.

The weather was fine and mild and several exhibitors went for walks and enjoyed the sea breezes. The attendance appeared to be excellent and the Pavilion was comfortably crowded in the afternoon. Miss Cathcart, the Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, worked hard organizing this fixture and I hope the financial returns were good to reward the Club for all the thought and labour she put into it. I am sure all the exhibitors and judges returning to London were very appreciative of her thoughtfulness in allowing them to catch the 4.30 p.m. train which was the last enabling them to arrive at a reasonable time.

The judges' main awards were : Best Longhair Cat in Show—Mrs. Benbow's Blue male Champion Bayhorne Ajax by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue ; Best Longhair Kitten—Mrs. Pye Thomson's Blue male

kitten Pyleigh Horatius by Ch. Dusty of Dunesk ; Best Longhair Neuter—Mrs. Douglas's Blue Ufcombe Stephane by Danehurst David ; Best Shorthair Cat—Mrs. Foxwell's Seal Point Siamese female Firesprite Cheta by Chinki Ranya ; Best Shorthair Kitten—Miss Bone's Abyssinian Nigella Sascha by Ch. Contented Amigo ; Best Shorthair Neuter—Mrs. Light's Abyssinian Hassom Song by Bruerne Achilles.

It was good to see some nice Black Longhairs, the first and Ch. winner in an amalgamated class being Mrs. Mitchell's Claribel of Carne by Baralan Babu. The second was also very pleasing, Mrs. Beedell's Ch. Sarisbury Sacharissa by Ch. Harpur Blue Boy. In Blue females Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepvai Precocious was 1st and Champion. She looked lovely and her coat much improved since the last Ch. Show. Mrs. Kingdom's Chinchilla Jennie of Thame was Best Chinchilla. Mrs. Lucille Davies repeated her last Ch. Show success by being awarded Best Cream Adult with Oscar of Pensford, as did Mrs. King with Starmist of Pensford, Best Blue-Cream Adult. Mrs. Rosell's Tortoiseshell Bruton Perdita (by Miss Lelgarde Fraser's Barwell Derry) was very attractive and was another Ch. winner.

Several of the British Shorthair classes were cancelled owing to lack of entries. Seal Point Siamese adults numbered twenty with forty kittens, Blue Point adults six and thirteen kittens, Chocolate Point adults one and four kittens. The winning Seal Point male was Mrs. Foxwell's Selborne Prairie Wolf. In an amalgamated class of Burmese adults Mrs. Macaulay's Kyneton Bizanna was 1st and Ch. and in Abyssinians Mrs. Tancock's Chatwyn Setna male and Miss Bone's Arkwright Sybil were the winners.

Although there were only three Manx entered and two present, Miss Alison Aitken's Noend Marigold being the Championship winner, it was pleasing to see them both with the correct type of coat which the standard states "is what is termed 'double' namely soft and

open like that of a rabbit, with a soft thick undercoat." It is remarkable how many breeders of other varieties think any Shorthair cat without a tail is a Manx. Actually only 15 points out of a possible 100 are allowed for taillessness.

Miss Kathleen Yorke was unable to be present as she had not quite recovered from her recent indisposition. She was very much missed and we hope she will be with us at the next show.

A Fine Young Blue

On one of the occasional fine days we have had this summer, I spent a busy and enjoyable day visiting three Longhair breeders. First, to Miss Page of Watford to see her newly acquired young male Vigilant Taurus. He has settled down quickly and is a very eligible Blue with his immaculate breeding. Her sunny garden lends itself admirably to keeping cats and her accommodation for them is excellent. Miss Page lives in a bungalow so her garden is wide and not too long, and all her cat houses are conveniently near—a blessing, especially in winter! They are very sensibly raised on piers over a foot from the ground and were built in pre-war days to accommodate the late Mr. Page's dogs. He bred wire-haired and smooth fox terriers for many years. Indifferent health for the last few years precluded him from taking a very active interest so as the dogs passed on they were not replaced. Only one remains now, and Miss Page's Corgi who is a house pet.

The well built houses have had refinements added for the cats. They are lined with hardboard which has been painted in pastel shades and any wire divisions necessary have been put on to stout wooden framework. The whole effect is pleasing as there is no sagging wire netting anywhere. She has more accommodation than cats but even so she is planning an extra special new house for Taurus which will lead on to a crazy paved run formerly used by the dogs. All her queens looked contented and well.

The sedate ones have liberty in the garden in suitable weather. Miss Page has bred some very nice Blues and it was nice to see paler coated adults than the average nowadays and the fine texture which often goes with the paler shades.

Woburn Sweet Lavender is the dam of Mrs. Jewell's very nice Woburn Ailsa, Best Blue female kitten at the first Championship Show and her lovely litter sister Woburn Annabel, the latter not yet shown in her open class. Both excel in type, pale coats and lovely eye colour. Miss Page wanted to revert to one of her original varieties—Blue-Creams—so she mated Sweet Lavender to Mrs. Barron's Cream male Paul of Pensford; the mother obliged by having one, and two Blue males. Blue-Creams are a variety with exceptional intelligence.

Happy in Bucks

On to visit Mrs. Lucille Davies at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks. Her cat accommodation is some of the best and I wish all stud cats were kept under similar conditions. Here are spacious houses with plenty of windows and shelves conveniently placed so that the inmates can disport themselves on rainy days, very large runs for the fine weather and ample safe tubular heating for really cold weather.

The queens have liberty as the entire garden has a high fence, and this summer wire netting was fixed on top of it. Two of her Blue-Creams, Seemore Sugar Puss and her litter sister purchased from Miss Rice last winter looked very elegant in their new summer house. They are by Vigilant Taurus, a lovely pair, one with a remarkable coat for length and texture. They won well as kittens and will be shown this winter. Her three stud cats, the Blue Camber Algernon, the Cream Elmwood Cavalier and Oscar all looked very well and contented. Anson Bouquet, a charming older queen bred by Miss Statman, was sunning herself in a large run as Oscar was at liberty and like all

virile males he is inclined to chase the queens when he meets one in the garden although he likes one to live with him in winter and is very circumspect.

Like Blues one needs to see Creams in the open to appreciate them at their best. Another variety which looks lovely in a garden or in any room with bright daylight are Red Tabbies. I have seen them at Miss Lelgarde Fraser's in her garden and they positively "glow." Nearly all the famous British stock in this variety have been bred by the late Mrs. Campbell-Fraser and Lelgarde. Mrs. Fawell's Ch. Barwell Pedro, who was awarded his eighth Challenge Certificate on August 22nd, is by Ch. Hendon Lysander.

Advice about Males

My third visit was to Mrs. Barron of Hillingdon. Her nine Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream kittens were having an afternoon siesta in the sunny lounge adjoining their sitting and dining room, an ideal arrangement for cats and kittens to romp about in and rest. Hendras Pepita, the

mother of two Blues, two Creams and one Blue-Cream, has already been awarded two Challenge Certificates last season and when she recovers her bloom will be competing again. Time often improves Blue-Creams and they can win at an age when most Blues have retired from the show pen.

I am not personally in favour of showing females after they have attained their championships as it appears to have some effect on their breeding proclivities. Mother cats are so happy leading a quiet domestic life and so adorable with their kittens that any honours which jeopardize this are not worth having. Males are a different proposition as few can be domestic pets and an occasional show does them no harm and allows other breeders to see they are fit and well, but even so don't be tempted to take Champions on very long journeys as one always has to guard against a tendency in males not to use their sanitary pans unless they, and it, are in familiar surroundings. Too many lovely males have died prematurely from bladder



Hunting fleas?

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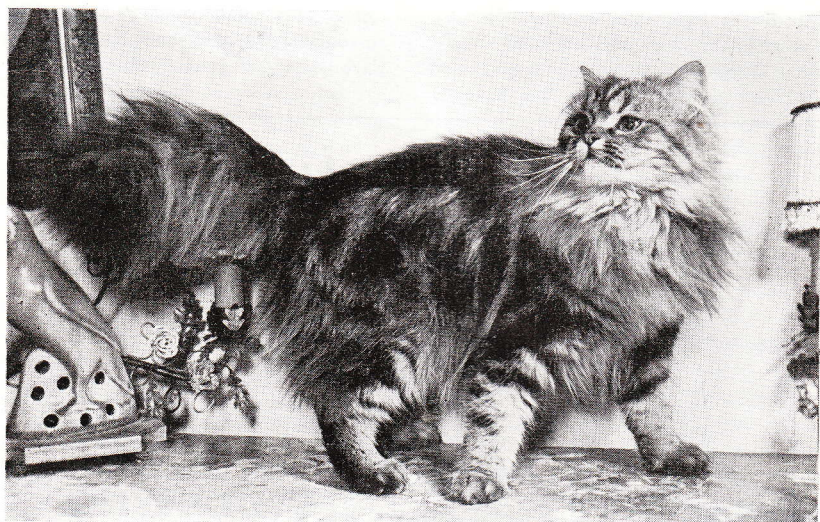
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Photos by Isambert

A pair to be proud of ! International Champion BANCO DE MARTAINVILLE, Black Longhair, and (below) DINA, a striking two-years-old Brown Tabby Longhair. Both belong to Madame Chaussebourg, of Paris.

trouble which may have arisen indirectly from exhibiting them too frequently.

Mrs. Barron's Cream queen Dalan Nicola had four Creams. All the nine kittens were by Paul and such hefty little souls. The queens, which include Redwalls Merley, seem to fit into the menage so well and have been a consolation to her since the serious illness of her husband over the last nine months.

Later on another interesting visit was to see Mrs. Brind and Moonrise's quartette by Miss Sheppard's Cream male Ch. Widdington Winterset, a lovely litter with an exquisite Blue-Cream excelling in type, eye colour and colouring, two lovely Cream females and a good Blue boy. They have their own nursery in the house, a dear little room with painted walls in a pastel shade of pink, fit for the most precious human baby. One or two of these kittens will be exhibited and in the spring Moonrise is going back to the same male.

We are on the eve of the Show season and it is an appropriate time to call attention to the behaviour of "chatty" stewards who (quite rightly in my opinion) irritate many exhibitors. There

are not many of them fortunately but those who do offend seem oblivious of the fact that after the public and exhibitors are admitted their remarks to the judge, sometimes derogatory to the exhibit, can be overheard. We enter our cats under the judges we prefer and it implies a tacit acceptance of their opinions, but few of us want to hear a running commentary on them by stewards. Almost without exception judges prefer and frequently ask for quiet stewards.

After an unusually long interval between All-Breed London Championship Shows, Croydon Cat Club stages its Show on November 7th at the Royal Horticultural Society Hall, Westminster. With Mr. A. Towe as Show Manager we can anticipate an enjoyable day. The array of exhibits will be some of the finest in the country and November is a month when they are at their best, so please come and bring your friends. If some of them have not previously attended a cat show I am sure they will express amazement at so many varieties, and pleasure with the beauty of our lovely felines.

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Reproduction

By A. C. JUDE

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

WHEN two coloured cats are mated together, the coat colour of the expected litter, either in whole or part, may, within limits, be forecast providing one knows the colour pedigree of both parents and has a knowledge of the order of colour dominance. One has to say "within limits" for often the range of colours to be expected from a particular colour mating may be too extensive for all to appear in one litter. Expectancy in these cases will be established when results of a number of similar matings have been taken into account.

While one may forecast the appearance of colours in the litters from colour matings, the degree of excellence in both the variation required of solidity of colour, and the position and distribution of patches or markings will only follow that displayed by the parents with any degree of accuracy and certainty if one breeds within a strain. This means that if an outcross is made with another strain, the fair regularity of shade of colour, and the fairly even distribution of markings which has been established in a strain may well be thoroughly upset by a cross with another strain, even though the two animals used are both well nigh perfect in these respects.

For instance, most readers will know the almost perfect markings obtained in Dutch rabbits. It is quite on the board that a cross of two almost perfectly

marked Dutch rabbits from two different strains will, when mated, produce youngsters whose markings are nowhere near the excellence of those exhibited by the parents. Two entirely different sets of minor genes have been brought together with disappointing result. But if a backcross is made, the nearness of resemblance of markings to those of the original parents is usually re-established—the original sets of minor genes having been brought together again.

It is always risky and inadvisable to introduce an F_1 animal from such an outcross widespread into a strain. Experimental matings should first be made, and the results noted. If these results are not satisfactory, that particular outcross should be abandoned. If such a mating does not satisfy, it in no way implies that the outside strain or animal from that strain is in any way inferior, but just simply that because the minor genes do not match, the particular union is unsuitable.

Although under the conditions already mentioned the colour make-up of colour \times colour may be anticipated, the introduction of whole white on one side may bring complications. In some animals there are three kinds of whiteness with which one has to contend—albino, whole white coats but where pigmentation appears in the eyes, and patches of white in an otherwise coloured coat.

Even though the albino mutation is only very rare in cats, so rare that it is almost negligible as an occurrence, albinism should be studied so that lack

of pigmentation in its other forms may be properly understood. When we speak of albino we refer to those animals or plants which are white because their hereditary constitution either contains a factor which prevents *any* development of colour in them, or lacks one or other or both of two factors whose co-operation is always necessary if colour is to appear.

A true albino therefore does not possess the pigment which normally develops in the tissues. Not only is the pigment which is normally present in the skin and other superficial parts not developed, so that the skin, for example, is pink because the red blood in its blood-vessels is not masked by other colour, but even the pigment normally found in the deeper tissues is absent also. The lack of external colour is particularly noticeable in the eye-ball. The iris is colourless, and the eye-ball itself also lacks pigment and is therefore pink for the same reason that the skin is pink, namely because the red blood in its blood-vessels is not masked by other colour and is visible as the pink glow familiar to anyone who has kept pet albino mice or even Siamese cats who are an approach to albino but who, of course, are capable of developing some pigment, eye included.

Albinos breed true

Into the eyes of albinos more light must enter than into the normal eye protected by pigment. Albinos are therefore abnormally sensitive to light. The human albino, for instance, shows what is called the albinotic facies, characterized by nearly closed eyelids, and peculiar blinking movements and puckering of the skin round the eyes. Most human albinos also suffer from a kind of nystagmus which may depend in some way upon the absence of pigment from certain areas of the brain concerned with the control of eye movements. The pink eye, with its attendant disadvantages, is thus characteristic of the true albino, and by it we distinguish albinos from other white coated animals.

Another feature of albinos is that they breed true to their albinism. If two albinos are mated together, the offspring will be all albinos. This is due to the same cause as that which made the parents albinos, namely, either the absence from their hereditary make-up of one or both of those factors without whose interaction colour cannot develop, or the presence in their inheritance of a factor which prevents the appearance of colour. What these factors are is not completely understood, but from the skins of coloured rats and rabbits and covies, from the blood of insects and the ink-sac of cuttle-fishes, a ferment called tyrosinase has been extracted which converts chromogenic substances also present in the blood into melanin-like pigments.

It is significant that these ferments are not obtainable from the skin of albinos. One theory is, therefore, that colour production depends upon the interaction of these ferments and chromogens, and that albinos lack the power of producing one or the other or both of them.

(to be continued)

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**Our SPECIAL GREETINGS ISSUE
(see announcement on page 2) must
close for press in the first week of
November. Organizations and fan-
ciers are therefore advised to post
off their instructions without delay.**

Herbs and the brood queen

By ANN L. STUBBS

ANY breeder of any form of livestock knows that good health in this animals begins at the moment of conception, if not before. In our care of the brood queen we are laying the foundations of good or bad health in our stock.

Of course, our little queen will need much more food when she is in kitten. But she needs more than that. She needs extra vitamins both for herself and her kittens, and she needs the right things for her reproductive system, to tone it up and keep it in good working order, just as a car needs oil.

Providing she is fit and free from worms, as a well-cared for cat should be at the time of mating, it should not be necessary actually to worm her when she is in kitten. Give two garlic tablets daily for the first three weeks of her pregnancy and one daily thereafter.

Raspberry leaf if the famed birth aid remedy, famed through many centuries and in many parts of the world. The Red Indian people of North America use it extensively. Raspberry leaf is valuable in that it tones up the reproductive system and makes for an easy birth. It should be given daily, one three grain tablet, from the time of mating till the after-birth is cleared. If you have a queen who in the past has had difficult births double the quantity for the last two weeks and at the time of the birth itself, till all is quite over, give double the quantity, that is two three grain pills, every two hours.

Raspberry leaf, however, has more uses to the pregnant female than merely "toning up." It is a rich source of the

vitamins she needs so badly at this time: iron, potassium, chlorine and calcium.

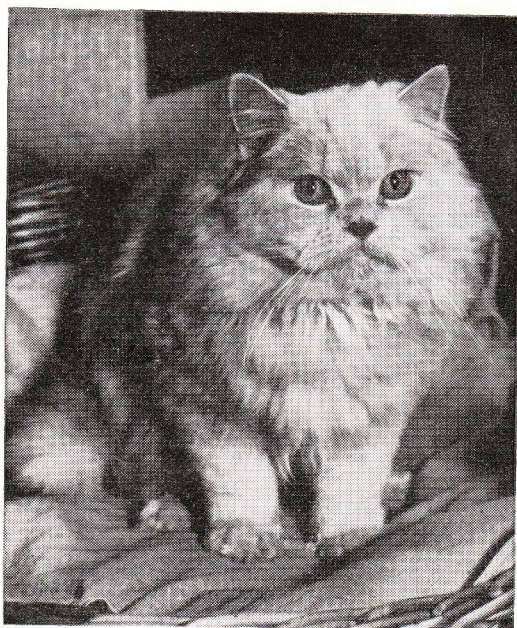
Another extremely valuable herb for use in pregnancy is motherwort. This, as its name implies, has been used for this purpose for many years. It is particularly valuable for old queens. It is claimed for this herb that it acts as a tonic on the generative organs and allays nervous irritability. Motherwort is also good as a mild heart tonic.

Linseed is also good as the oil is rich and highly nutritive and to feed it to the expectant female often gives the offspring glorious silky coats at birth.

Helping Pregnancy

In the case of old queens particularly, whole litters often fade out at birth. If you have a queen who has previously lost litters like this it often helps to put them on green leaf tablets throughout their pregnancy, one daily, increasing to two daily for the last week or so. These green leaf tablets are composed chiefly of nettle, which is the richest source of iron, in its natural form, available. An infusion of nettle leaves, made just as one would make ordinary tea, is often helpful. The objection to this is that it is usually so difficult to dose cats with liquids. Unless you are expert at it you are likely to get nine tenths of the dose in your own face and in probability a choking cat to cope with!

A valuable addition to the diet of the brood queen, during the last week or two of her pregnancy and throughout the time she is nursing the kittens, is tree bark food. Always buy this from a reliable herbalist for some of the stuff on the market is mostly "food," that is white flour, and is of no use to your cat, with a minimum of slippery elm.



"WHERE'S MY TIBS?"

"It was nearly Tibs-Time when I met Broughton Marvo," says Tibby, the Tibs Reporter.

"He was quite impatient when I interrupted him — then we both had our Tibs together, and we parted very good friends."

Broughton Marvo is a beautiful pale cream Longhair, owned by Mrs. Aitken of 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey and bred by Mrs. Hughes. He is a winner of many prizes and has sired winning kittens, among them Bourneside Misty Twilight, a lovely blue-cream bred by Mrs. Aitken. Misty Twilight won at every show at which she appeared last year. Mrs. Aitken attributes much of her success in breeding to the excellent condition that regular Tibs Tablets give all her cats. They all love their daily Tibs — in fact one of her cats likes them so much that he has been known to empty the packet if left open!



Famous
breeders
say:

TIBS

11d. and 2/3

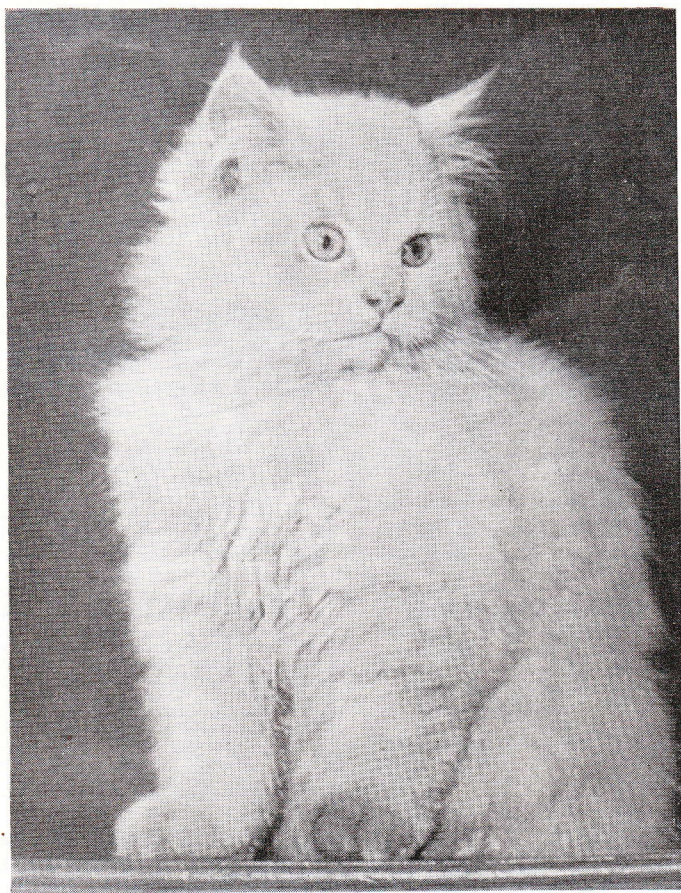
KEEP CATS KITTENISH

Slippery elm is the inner bark of the red elm tree and it is this substance which is the basis of tree bark food combined with white willow. These two substances are famed for their soothing and tonic effect on the whole digestive tract. Not only that but they are rich in vitamins which the brood animal requires.

It is significant that deer, and other animals in their wild state, seek out these two foods diligently while they are with young. The easiest way to give this to the brood queen is once a day to

sprinkle a spoonful over her cereal feed.

Due to the fact that they have not been bred to artificial show requirements for a great many years, as is the case in so many breeds of dog, cats seldom have trouble in giving birth to their kittens. The main responsibility of her owner is to see that she is well and truly nourished so that she will not have to give too much of herself to her kittens. She should still look well-fed and sleek when the kittens are weaned, not lean and haggard.



Monks

ANLABY BAMBI, a nice young Cream and a show winner in a litter class for Mrs. G. M. Snowden, of Patrington, Hull, now belongs to Miss Amy Williams, of Manchester, who is a local worker on behalf of animal welfare.

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His Fund helps :—

R.S.P.C.A. (London Cat work), O.D.F.L. (London Cat work),
Cat Ward of S.P.A.N.A.'s Algiers Hospital.

No paid staff : no "overheads." Audited accounts published in this magazine, or sent for a stamped self-addressed envelope.

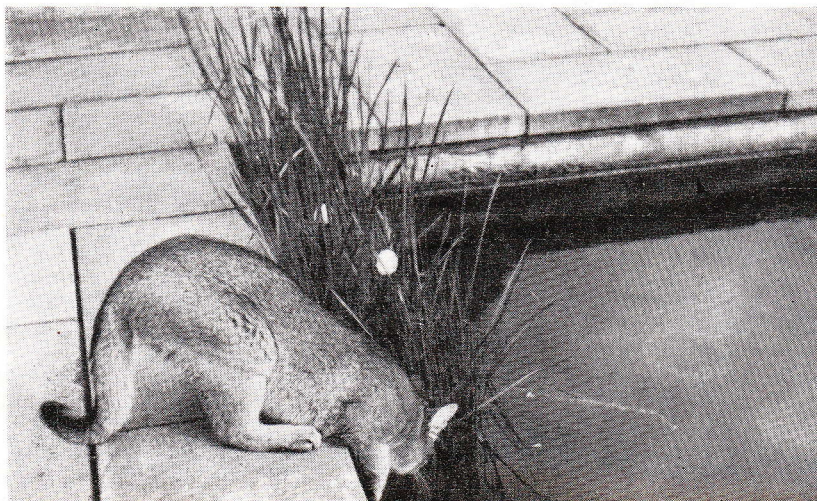
MORTIMER'S POSTAL CHRISTMAS MARKET. Send 1s. 7d. and add. label for APPRO PARCEL : Cat or Floral calendars, 6d. to 2s. 6d. Give preferences. American style cat cards, notepaper, notelets, etc. Lavender bags 1s. Cat fire gloves 4s. 6d. Mortimer's Catmint Mice, soft, lifelike, 2s. 6d. Soft White Mice, 3s. 6d. and 3s. Other inexpensive, entrancing "catty" gifts.

MORTIMER'S BIRTHDAY COMPETITION RESULT. It made £300 directly and indirectly. Winners of best postcards saying "Why I Love my Cat" were judged by Miss Rose Tenent, and prizes awarded as follows : Mr. Mortimore, South Harrow : Bottle Scotch Whiskey ; Miss M. Smith, Torquay : Lady Aberconway's Dictionary of Cat Lovers ; Mrs. Robins, Blackheath : A year's subscription to "Our Cats" ; Miss M. Wheeler, Bickley : Large Box Chocolates.

Send a Donation at Christmas in Memory of Those We Have Loved to :

MORTIMER'S FUND FOR CAT WELFARE,

c/o MISS RUDD, 30a SINCLAIR ROAD, W.14

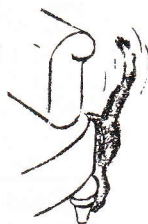


A delightful study by Sidney Denham of Sir Oliver Welby's Abyssinian ULLYSSES.



Tailpieces

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



A HANDSOME tabby named Toots recently got himself into a tight corner—he spent three days riding between Chelmsford and Liverpool Street Station under the motor coach of an electric train. Extricated with great difficulty he was rushed to a P.D.S.A. sanatorium where he soon made good progress back to normality. The astonishing sequel to the incident is that when Toots was shown in “*Pets’ Parade*,” an I.T.V. programme, he was spotted and claimed by his owner, Master Neil Collings, of Walthamstow, East London.

Another Bonfire Night will soon be here. Don’t forget to keep your pets indoors, if possible in a room with someone to whom they are used. This year we shan’t be having quite so much noise as the law has stepped in to stop the marketing of some of the more explosive fireworks. Which is a sensible move as it’s quite possible for everyone to enjoy the festival of Guy Fawkes without a lot of violent bangings.

Eighty-four organizations in countries throughout the world have accepted in principle an International Charter of Animal Welfare circulated by the R.S.P.C.A., which is now considering the calling of a conference with an ultimate view to the formation of an international organization for animal welfare. The Charter recognizes a moral obligation that all animals should be protected from man’s cruelty and seeks to encourage humane education to this end. It recognizes that they should have proper conditions of living and travel, veterinary treatment in sickness and, where necessary, a painless death.

Peter Klouda, a tousel-haired boy of three and the son of a former Czech diplomat, has been given special awards for his bravery in rescuing his brother’s Siamese cat from the jaws of a Labrador retriever. Peter was playing in Richmond Park when Fini the cat was attacked. He ran to her aid, pulled her away from the dog and shielded her with his own body. The frightened Fini clawed at his face and he had to have injections at Kingston Hospital. Peter received certificates and animal books from Lady Rentoul, president, at a ceremony at the headquarters of the R.S.P.C.A. He is the youngest person ever to be honoured in this way.

During a recent action for divorce, the injured husband claimed that his wife showed “an inordinate devotion” to five cats and a budgerigar. He was forced to do odd jobs outside the house to escape them.

That newsy little item about cats you have seen in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down. Will you be kind enough to clip it out and mail it to me in an unsealed envelope to save postal charges. Cuttings from overseas publications will be specially welcome. **MICKEY.**

THE CAT’S INN

offers unique Boarding Facilities, under the supervision of

MOLLIE TURNEY

BREEDER OF BONAVIA CHINCHILLAS

Individual Cedarwood Houses & Gardens

INSPECTION INVITED

Details and Brochure from :

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BERKS.

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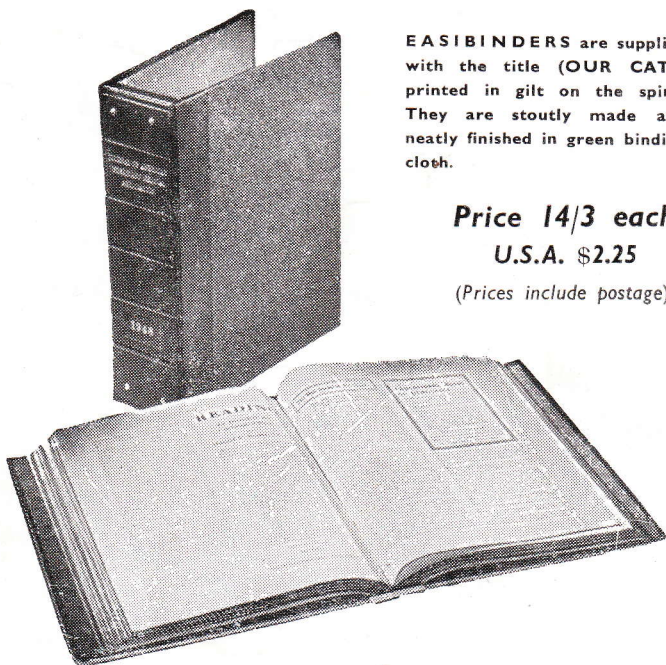
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