

CAVY CORNER Conducted by C. V. B. Taylor

THERE CAN BE TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING EVEN IN THE CASE OF THE ABYSSINIAN'S ROSETTES

A CHEERY letter from that well-known Staffs. cavy fancier, Mr. S. Titterton, hints that during the coming months he will be battling again for premier awards in the exhibition pen, as he has some fine youngsters coming along both in Self blacks and Abyssinians. He mentions an Abyssinian with 15 rosettes, all clear and correctly placed. It should cause a stir, but one can have too much of a good thing, even in rosettes! In many cases recently, roots have been frozen and greens have been almost out of the question. Bran mashes and hay with table oddments, such as apple peelings have had to be the main diet. There is no denying that good meadow hay is a fine conditioner, and it is surprising how much hay cavies consume, but then they always seem to be on the nibble. Brighter days are now with us, and we can look forward to getting those bit-bits in fresh green food, which makes such a vast difference to the well being of stock. Reply to J. G. C. (Birmingham): Black and golden Agouti Dutch cavies can be and are bred together successfully, but red Dutch should not be mixed with either colour. Sows should not be placed in the breeding pen till turned six months old, and only then, if well developed. Young boars may be used sparingly when turned four months old, providing they are strong and vigorous, but this should not be done often till they are fully matured.—C. V. B. TAYLOR, 16, Buile Hill Drive, Salford 5, Manchester.

THE GERMANS DID NOT LIKE CAVIES

So Mynheer Modderman Kept on Smiling

AT the Bradford championship shows of pre-war days a regular and well-known visitor was Mr. J. Th. T. Modderman, of De Meern, Holland, who was a very keen cavy exhibitor, so much so that he often brought some of his stock over from Holland to compete against the English stock. Along came the war, Mr. Modderman passed out of our lives, and those of us who knew him often wondered how he was faring in Holland under the German occupation. Recently I received a letter from our Dutch friend, who has come through the ordeal of the war years and is still as keen a fancier as ever in spite of many difficulties he had to contend with during those six years when his country was cut off from us. His letter was a very welcome surprise and in view of its interest to many of his English friends I propose to give some points from it. He says how glad he is to have the opportunity of communicating with his fancier friends in England, one of whom in pre-war days christened him the "Flying Dutchman," although he points out that he is a Dutch breeder and not a breeder of Dutch. Selfs, Silver Agoutis, and Abyssinians are the cavies in which he is chiefly interested. "Six years without a copy of FUR AND FEATHER," writes our Dutch friend, "has left me rather out of touch with what has happened in English Fancy matters, and I was delighted when two copies reached me. These were sent by my brother, who obtained them in Wolverhampton where he was serving with the Royal Netherlands Expeditionary Force, and how welcome they were, and what a tonic to me it was to see many of the old familiar names of fancier friends I knew in England. I noticed a photo of an old friend of mine, Mr. Woodgate, and the name of Ralph Blake who used to write 'No-tails in the South.' I also saw that Mr. Taylor still contributes his good old 'Cavy Corner,' and I now feel sorry that I have missed these numerous articles during the war period. Others who come to my memory are Mr. Eric Brooks, Mr. E. Dixon, Charlie Reynolds, and several other familiar faces whose names for the moment have slipped my memory. "Cavies in the Netherlands have managed to survive, and my 'Cavy Castle' at De-Meern still holds some sixty cavies of various varieties. During the occupation years the Jerries robbed me of almost everything, including my motor car, bicycle and wireless set, and although they visited my cavies on a number of occasions they rather despised the pigs, and in view of the fact that the Jerries certainly didn't like cavies I could keep smiling. "The notorious last war-winter nearly brought the finish to the Fancy in Holland, most people losing their stock through lack of food. I had a good stock of beetroot, man-golds and turnips, but in January we were

compelled to eat these ourselves when all the potatoes were finished, and by March there was nothing left. My stock survived until the end of April by just sheer luck. One day, however, a Jerry passing with a wagon was quite willing to exchange me a sack of oats for a bottle of gin, and so my cavies were saved. Many people, however, lost their stock, which it will be difficult for them to replace for some time. During the last year of the occupation I bred no youngsters, owing to the food position, and those which were bred in 1944 lacked size." Mr. Modderman asks for good stock to be sent to Holland to give their cavy Fancy a new start and an opportunity to recover and rebuild. His letter is very interesting and shows that we in this country should appreciate the fact that we were able to continue with our rabbits and our cavies to the great extent we were able to do during those trying war years. Mr. Modderman's address is: De-Meern, Holland.

The Cavy Postbag

INFORMATION WANTED I WONDER if any cavy breeders had experience of a disease affecting usually the hind limbs of cavies and causing the limbs to be greatly enlarged? The limb is usually swollen from the first joint to the toes and may be two or three times the thickness of the normal limb. The condition appears to affect older animals and is very chronic, though it apparently does not cause much suffering and the animals appear otherwise to be in good condition. I am very interested in this condition and should be glad to hear from anyone who has stock with these symptoms with a view to investigating the cause. As the disease may be infectious it is highly undesirable that such animals should be kept with normal stock. W. R. EMMS.

BRADFORD CH. SHOW THE announcement in Mr. Woodgate's notes that Bradford ch. show will take place again will be welcomed by all fanciers. When I was exhibiting cavies about 15 years ago, I paid my first visit to Bradford ch. show. I was at once struck by the true fancier's spirit. I spent a happy time among the lads, and when my ch. cream boar, after being awarded best cavy in show, was brought out to compete for the premier award, I thought that to score the winning goal at Wembley might carry high honours but, to find your self under the spot light in this gathering of true fanciers makes Wembley a minor event. There must have been hundreds watching this award being made. No one could have received more hand-shakes, pats on the back and congratulations than I did that afternoon. I was a stranger from the South but had put down the best cavy, therefore I was received with the true Yorkshire fancier spirit. I shall never forget that day. L. KIRKWOOD.

From The Districts

SOUTHERN CAVY CLUB I READ with regret in Beveren Club notes of the death of Mrs. Rostant, a late secretary of the Southern Cavy Club. Mrs. Rostant, during her term of office, worked unceasingly for the benefit of our club. To Dr. Rostant and family we offer our heart-felt sympathy. Will members please note that Mr. Carr, of Ashstead, and Mr. Symons, Wanstead, are now included on the club's panel of judges. This is because Mr. Kirkwood has resigned and Mrs. Danecourt, who does not wish to accept judging engagements, has stood down in favour of these two judges, who both received the same number of votes in the ballot and so being next on the list, automatically become club judges. Specials have been offered at the Watford show, on May 26th, the judge will be Mr. Barcham. There will be 15 classes, so the show deserves support.—Miss Radeglia, hon. sec. and treasurer., 7, Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey. Tel. Epsom 9203.

NORTHERN NO-TAIL NOTES JUDGES at the Durham and Northumberland Cavy Club adult stock show at Newcastle on August 23rd will be Wilf Vickers, adult classes, and Jimmy Appleby, young classes. These are two well-known cavy fanciers, and I am looking forward to seeing many entries in their classes. Full details will be advertised in FUR AND FEATHER. Adult cups, and numerous specials will be up for competition. Secretary Mr. W. Dinning informs me that he is busy getting the young stock show fixed up. This event may be at Bishop Middleham, on August 20th. I received a very interesting letter from our old friend, Mr. "Dick" Waller, telling me about the time when he officiated as judge at the D. and N.O.C. show, round about 1921. There were 21 Self Blacks, and the same number of Self Whites and Creams. Other varieties were exhibited equally well. Excellent classes, these, and I am looking forward to seeing the same number of entries repeated, or even passed this year. Mr. Harry McVeigh, of Polish fame, is thinking seriously of taking up cavies as a sideline. I am sure he will never regret it. Prudhoe Fanciers' Society is to hold its annual show in August. Cavies are to be included this year in the schedule, and Mr. Jimmy Driscoll will judge. A letter from Mr. A. Donkin, secretary of Blyth (Northumberland), tells me that the club will put cavy classes on the schedule at (Continued at foot of last column).

DOES the colour deepen with age in red Tabby L.H.? Tip top reds are, as a rule, born dark. A stage of paleness intervenes—and they then resume their original shade. At what age should a male have his first queen? If well developed he can be allowed one when round about a year, but he must not be living with the females when either is over six months old. I have a Tortie kitten, her colour is not bright, and her legs are rather solid. Is she worth breeding from? There is always a possibility the colour may come through; the legs, of course, should be well broken with the cream, red, and black showing brilliantly, but in choosing a mate, bear her faults in mind, and try to out-balance them in the sire. Are there to be any summer cat shows? I heard Bournemouth might be on the tapis, and there may be a kitten show in London. Certainly, Sandy ch. show in August will be held. My well-grown cream L.H. is in season, just over six months old. When shall I mate her? She is too young at the moment, but at nine months all should be well. I am just starting in the Fancy, what clubs shall I join? Your colour variety society, and any of the other clubs running shows.

CATS DO YOU KNOW?

By G. Campbell Fraser

I am anxious to trace Mrs. Underwood, who, I believe went to live near Bournemouth. Her present address would be appreciated. KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS, 92, Chiltern Road, Sutton, Surrey.

MOUSE MEMOS BY C. H. JOHNSON

IN a recent issue of FUR AND FEATHER, I promised to say why I still favoured the sliding scale of prize money instead of fixed, guaranteed, prize money. Fixed and guaranteed prize money can weigh very heavily against a show organiser, a show society or a guarantor, and the sliding scale of prize money permits an exhibitor to have a reward more in keeping with the value of a win. Is it fair to pay an exhibitor the same prize money for winning a class of 50 as for a class of three, and is it fair to pay out full prize money on a class of three when, with the accepted prize money of 6/-, 4/-, 2/-, 1/-, it involves a loss of 10/- to the show society or generous guarantor? It is agreed that there are arguments against the sliding scale of prize money, but I contend that for reasons stated above, the arguments for are far greater than those against. I know that many fanciers favour fixed prize money as was evidenced in FUR AND FEATHER some time ago, but I say that the correspondence on that occasion only represented a cross section of our Fancy and that the majority (as was proved at the Leeds great mouse shows, where a gigantic record total of 1632 entries was achieved, and at the president's shows during the war, which will always stand unrivalled for success) generally accept the sliding scale of prize money as being fair and equitable. Election of Scottish Judges J. Driscoll, 8; J. Gilpin, 5; C. Nicol, 3; J. Dawson, 3; H. Bonthron, 2; W. J. Duncan, 1; R. K. Dunn, 1; J. Murchie, 1. I would point out to Scottish members that the inclusion of juvenile members votes does not alter the result. Messrs. Driscoll and Gilpin being successful with or without the juvenile vote. J. WORMALD, Scrutineer.

IN BRIEF

Mill Hill R.C. will hold an open show on July 6th. The judges will be Mr. Ralph Blake, Arthur Wood, and T. Whitaker. Newton Abbot F.A. will hold its Y.S.S. on July 12th. The judge will be Mrs. Wilbraham, Messrs. G. Hocking, W. Gayton, W. Gillson, F. J. Hanglin, and R. Marshall. The Devon and Cornwall Dutch Club's Y.S.S. will be staged in conjunction with this event. Newton Abbot fanciers will hold their A.S.S. on Oct. 25th. Bridgwater D.R.C. will stage open shows on July 12th and Nov. 8th. The British Rex Rabbit Society's adult stock show will be held on Jan. 9th and 10th, 1947, at Canterbury. The judges will be Messrs. Dowle, Leaver, Power, Maynard, Blake, Goodchild and Woodgate. Farnham R.C. will stage its Y.S.S. on Aug. 16th, and an open pen show on Oct. 25th. At the open show members' trophies will be up for competition. Mr. T. Leaver is to judge. (Continued from second column)

its open pen show to be held at Blyth on June 6th and 7th, with Mr. W. Dinning, of Corsett, as judge. Cavies are gaining popularity up North. More fanciers coming into the ranks and more societies catering for them is a very healthy sign. When these open shows are advertised don't forget to send open entries and assure cavies a place on the schedules another year. Mr. R. Trewhitt, of South Shields, secretary for Durham County Agricultural Society, small stock section, has just sent me the classification for cavies at their show, to be held on August 2nd at Seaburn, near Sunderland. There will be 13 classes to suit all fanciers. Prize money will be first 15/-, 2nd 10/-, 3rd 5/-, in all classes. Entry fee 2/- per pen. Specials given by the society include 10/- cash special for best adult cavy, and 10/- cash special for best young cavy. Mr. G. R. Lodge, Ferryburd., will judge. This is very generous guaranteed prize money, and I sincerely hope to see entries from all districts. Exhibits will be cared for by experienced fanciers, including myself, and railed to catch early return trains at the close of the show. The rest is in exhibitors' hands to help us make this event a success. I am sure a day at the Durham County show will ever remain a pleasant memory. Full details will be advertised in FUR AND FEATHER.—WM. T. SURTEES, Carley Hill Gardens, Southwick, Sunderland, Co. Durham.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS IN THE CAVY WORLD

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