

THE VOICE OF THE FANCY

A BRITISH RABBIT INDUSTRIES FAIR

INTEREST in the future of the rabbit industry has been the keynote of many letters and articles in recent months. Splendid work has been done by the industrial committee in their endeavours to obtain governmental support and recognition, but the response to date has been anything but encouraging.

One might hope that by now the Ministry of Agriculture, Board of Trade, and other departments, would appreciate the potentialities of this comparatively young industry. With official backing a vast range of quality goods could be produced for both the home and export markets, and a considerable tonnage of meat could be made available for home consumption.

How often one reads that the fight for recognition and support would be made easier by greater publicity! But it is of no use advertising ourselves to ourselves. If such publicity is to have the desired effect, it must, in my opinion, be given greater scope than that of the agricultural and rabbit journals.

Contributors to FUR AND FEATHER have suggested that much could be done by organising fashion displays at the leading salons and hotels. Such a step would be a move in the right direction, but a mere drop in the ocean when one considers how small a section of the public and trade would be involved.

In two weeks it would be to state its case, and in this matter I refer to both the domestic and commercial breeder, it must do so in no uncertain manner. A drop in the ocean of public opinion will not suffice. We must make such a splash that the ripples of interest will remain active for many months.

The recently issued year book for 1946/47 informs us that the B.R.C. "is considering the possibility of organising its own show." This, undoubtedly, will meet with the approval of fanciers all over the country yet I suggest that as we already have so many first-class shows the time, energy and monetary outlay would be better utilised by such a body as the B.R.C. in increasing public interest in the various aspects of British rabbit breeding.

A B.R.C. show would presumably be on a large scale. If this is so, is a British Rabbit Industry Fair (or exhibition) so much more ambitious as to be beyond our capabilities?

In two weeks it could be of greater service to our cause than numerous isolated mannequin parades. Every aspect of our business or hobby, and that of allied trades, would be represented; every article, from fur coats to powder puffs, displayed, and where possible, offered for sale; every breed shown to its best advantage; every delectable dish containing rabbit meat as its major ingredient on sale in the restaurant or buffet. Many other features, too detailed to enumerate here, come to mind.

A "show" of this kind would not only be of great interest to all classes of rabbit breeders; properly handled it would find space in the national press and provide a medium through which to publicise the future possibilities of the industry and state the difficulties and restrictions of the day. One need hardly emphasise how much more will have been accomplished when compared with a super-show on more conventional lines.

Such an exhibition calls for a high standard of organisation, funds, imagination and taste. I believe that we can produce them all, and that a campaign on these lines is necessary, not only to create the demand for the fur, wool, flesh and livestock we shall produce in future years, but as a certain means of obtaining much-needed publicity outside rabbit circles.

Gain the approval of the public and the press, and official support will not be far behind. JOHN H. PIPER.

CARELESS RAIL STEWARDS

AFTER a recent show a valuable young Ermine-fox was dispatched to London Bridge only to be returned to the original station since it still bore the show label. As a result, it stayed on the station until noon next day, when, thanks to the telephone inquiries of an intelligent local station official, it was at last located. It finally arrived at Woldingham by a roundabout route at 4 p.m. on the Sunday, having eaten practically all its bedding.

If, as the station reported, the trouble arose through the old label not being removed, this is a flagrant case of negligence on the part of the rail stewards and had it happened in bad weather, might easily have resulted in loss.

It is all the more regrettable since the rabbit in question belonged to a keen Scottish fancier who is entering at English shows during his holidays. Since he breeds the type of Ermine-fox that, while still under five months, wins B.I.S. and takes all before it, his anxiety can readily be understood.

I am sure that if a separate show secretary, capable of the job, be appointed at each open show instead of an already harassed club secretary taking on additional work, this sort of thing would not happen.

Fanciers expect more for their entry fees than the chance to compete on the bench, and unless their stock is well fed and cared for they are very definitely not getting value for money. Fanciers have long memories, and, like the elephant, never forget. JEAN E. COOKE.

THE SABLE CLUB

MR. MORGAN'S article replying to the recent spat of anonymously written articles on the Sable rabbit will be endorsed by many. These writers, obviously wishing for the amalgamation of the two clubs, won't get very far this way. The spirit that is needed was displayed by a London secretary of a B.S.R. club, who cycled from London to Smethwick to attend the meeting called by our secretary.

In contrast, the prime movers were absent. Two letters were the foundation of the meeting. In the absence of the writers it had to be decided if the contents were their

personal views, or the views of the clubs they represented. The chairman had an unenviable task to present any progress plan, and he must be congratulated on the way he kept the meeting on constructive lines, when danger of long discussion on immaterial points arose. Some progress was made and weaknesses in some sections were shown up.

I appeal to all members of the Sable clubs to return promptly the ballot forms they will receive in due course. Let all petty differences be sunk in an endeavour to make the amalgamation (if voted for by the N.S.R.C. members) swift and certain for the undoubted betterment of the Sable rabbit. F. GARLAND.

MORE 1947 CLASSES

I SUPPORT Sylvia D. Carver's letter in FUR AND FEATHER of July 18th, that clubs should cater for more 1947 classes. Surely the B.R.C. could make a rule that from July, clubs should provide classes to cover rabbits born in mid-January. I think that clubs, by so doing would get more support. Then it would give all breeders a chance to show their stock even if the rabbits were a week or so over 5 months. G. L. LETT.

THE STAN REDD PRESENTATION FUND

I AM closing the Stan Redd Presentation Fund, so all those wishing to subscribe, should forward their donations to me, as soon as possible. Donations recently received are: Mrs. E. G. Dyson, 10/6; C. Wren, £2 2s.; T. C. Stokes, 5/-; J. H. Fines, 3/- The total to date is £11 9s.—A. J. WATTS, 186, London Road, Biggleswade.

FLEMISH ARE FOR THE MANY

ON reading Mr. Woodgate's comments on the various breeds in "Rabbits, 1946-7," I find to my surprise, that the best Flemish are considered by him to be in the hands of the few.

For many years unsuccessful exhibitors of the breed have been airing their time-honoured grouse that "Flemish are for the favoured few," but I hardly expected a judge of Mr. Woodgate's reputation to fall for it. I can only conclude that he is completely out of touch with the breed. I have yet to see him at a club show, although he is a club judge, and his statement a short time ago that "too often we find that the rabbit which is devoid of ticking on the feet, also lacks it on the chest," confirms my impression.

The real position in the Flemish world is easily seen by considering the reports of club shows. At the last four shows, at each of which eight straight open classes were staged, 20 different fanciers were awarded first prizes, and out of 27 club cups, seven went to different fanciers last year. Four were not awarded. In 1945, 153 different exhibitors won challenge certificates with Flemish, out of 239 offered, and I shall be surprised if the 1946 figures do not show an even wider distribution.

I could give further evidence, but the above figures should be sufficient to show that so far from being "in the hands of the few," high-class Flemish are widely distributed, and competition between them is very hot indeed.

It would be much more accurate of Mr. Woodgate to say that the Flemish shown under him maybe in the hands of the few.—STEWART WALKER.

A "BETTER RESULTS" COUNCIL

I AM writing these few lines on behalf of Blackburn D.R.C. members in protest against the B.R.C.'s latest and most outrageous dictatorial methods.

On applying for challenge certificates and specials for the club's only open show of the year Oct. 25th, I received an application form as required. I returned this, and was sent along a further form which has come into operation in the meantime. All clubs now applying for B.R.C. support will find a new ruling that judges of all shows offering C.C.s must be individual members of the B.R.C., whether specialists or not.

This club and many more in the surrounding districts want to know just when the B.R.C.'s racket of drawing money from the British fancier will end.

Blackburn Club is affiliated, to the amount of 30/- per year, and the specialist judge booked for the occasion is affiliated through his club but apart from a few coloured cards, etc., we received nothing but orders.

If the present-day B.R.C. carries on like this much longer then the Fancy will soon be looking for a Better Results Council.

Blackburn Club will guarantee 12/-, 8/-, 4/- prize money in place of C.C.s.—J. K. GREGORY, Sec., Blackburn F. and D.R.C.

A SPECIALIST CLUB COMMITTEE

WHAT can a specialist club committee do that the B.R.C. cannot do? Let me warn those interested that if this plan goes through with the intention of taking away the power of the B.R.C. we will find ourselves in the position of having no representative or ruling body in the Fancy.

What is the B.R.C. anyway? It is, or should be, a ruling body elected by the little man through his specialist club, the one the great majority of members of the National Council delegates who are elected by ballot by members of specialist clubs? If so, the specialist clubs have the remedy in their own hands by giving their delegates definite instructions how to vote on most issues, with a free hand when necessary, like any other union would do. The National Council in turn would, or should, check the executive who are elected from them by them.

There are only two National Council meetings per year, but more could be called by members if necessary.



Hamsters make delightful pets and provide excellent training for boy or girl fanciers. Here is Wendy, young, but with a "selective eye." The picture is by the well-known Hamster fancier, H. W. Reynolds.

The rank and file can always write to the specialist club secretaries if there are any complaints and it is the secretary's duty to pass on these complaints to his committee. Why cause a split in our governing body as this specialist club committee will surely do?

The idea of this committee is good and sound but it is all work which should be done by a committee from the National Council who are already members and delegates of their own specialist clubs. J. J. THURON.

BLACK DUTCH

THERE is no need to go outside the Dutch Cavy to improve size. Black Dutch can be mated to Golden Agouti Dutch, Silver Agouti Dutch or Chocolate Dutch without any ill-effects on any of these colours.

It may be difficult to get pigs of the above colours to improve size so try a big Red Dutch. From it you will get Golden Agouti Dutch with perhaps a small patch of red. The red can be bred out, leaving good Red Dutch markings and increased size. W. H. WRIGHT.

N.Z. REDS ARE CUTE

THE sagacity of rabbits is again proved by one of my New Zealand Reds. Wanting to get out of his exercise pen, formerly used for dogs, and with a heavy gate, he seizes a suspended rope on the gate with his teeth, tugs rope, gate opens, out he goes, pleased as Punch at his discovery. This explains his frequent appearances in the front garden, which mystified me until I caught him in the act. These New Zealand Reds are certainly cute. (Miss) V. A. MARSHALL, M.N.Z.R.R.C.

A LONG-TAIL STRONGMAN

I WAS interested to note the surprising weight which a mouse is capable of raising. I find that an ordinary white buck, using its front feet only and standing upright, lifts off the side of its box with the utmost ease. I put a piece of metal weighing about three-quarters of a pound on the box lid, and it did it again! A further weight added, bringing the total up to one pound seven ounces, gave it a bit of trouble, but by next morning the lid was raised.

A "rapid" calculation, involving the use of logarithms, and dragging in vulgar fractions also, tells me that a man of similar power could raise a weight of, er, let me see, somewhere around four tons, or is it 40 tons? Well, an enormous weight, whatever it might be! J. K. MONK.

THANKS FROM HARRY BOOTH

I THANK all members of the N.M.C. who voted for my re-election as vice-president and judge. I greatly appreciate the honour and shall do my utmost to further their interest in matters appertaining to our grand branch of the Fancy. HARRY BOOTH.

"BLOWS"

I THINK that "blows" is caused by feeding too much hay and bulky foods and not giving enough green foods.

I have been breeding rabbits for eight years and I have never had a case of "blows" in my rabbitry.

I feed plenty of fresh green food (wild plants from the hedgerows when obtainable), carrots and kale in winter and a mash of cooked potato peelings, scraps and bran all the year round. The water-pots are always kept filled with clean water and I give the nursing does the milk bottle-rinsings. I have found that rabbits which have died from this complaint have nearly all been fed on a diet consisting mainly of hay and very little green food. In some cases the victims have never been given water to drink and this causes three-quarters of the dying-off of young rabbits. (Mrs.) K. C. BROWN.

HAMSTERS

WINNERS AT BOLLINGTON

BOLLINGTON show on July 19th was not an official Hamster Club show. Clashing as it did with a B.H.C. event at Welling, it was all the success that could have been hoped for with sixty-four entries. This was the first occasion on which all three shades of golden Hamsters had separate classes. My first duty was to sort out the shades and see them in their proper classes. Two entries per 712 from the guinea gold class. I trust in the golden class and did the same with pen 712 from the guinea gold class. I trust this met with the approval of the owners. It was the idea that this show should be a lead, and it would have the purpose had I let exhibitors wrongly imagine that their animals were dark or light. My stewards, Proudlove and Reynolds had everything ready for me, and I settled down to two hours with Hamsters, with the rest of the show and world in oblivion. I like looking these charming creatures over, and am pleased to say they are now coming better on the benches. Watch the colour and bloom; let us have more richness in the gold or we are going to have animals that are poor goldens, and certainly not guinea golds, which are really hard to come by, and which can and do bloom up a delight. The G.H. is not an animal easy to bench in tip-top form, but it is being benched, and there is no secret. From leaving the cub stage, there is quite definitely a "teen-age" when they will do but little in an adult class. After the cub stage these "teen-agers" should be fed and glamourised up to five or six months old before being benched again, and even then age does not bring out the very best in an animal. Then they can be given a run or two under different judges just to see if they can reach the cards in a big class.

AGOUTI M. OR F. 2: 1 Reynolds, fine buck, full bloom; 2 Adamson, will beat first when benched in full colour. GOLDEN, 16: 1, 2, vhc. hc Reynolds; 3, r Adamson; c Cook, 2nd doe, not up to first; 3 Butcher, nice buck, good stud; vhc Morton and Son; hc Hall; c Proudlove. GUINEA GOLD, M. OR F. 4: 1 Butcher, lovely light, worth cultivating; 2 Adamson, smart animal, in selling class; 3 Reynolds; r Morton and Son. MALE CHALL., 5: 1 Reynolds; 2 Adamson; 3 Butcher; r Proudlove; vhc Hall. FEMALE CHALL., 18: 1 Butcher; 2, r, vhc Reynolds; 3 Adamson; Morton and Son; c B. Hall. G. CHALL., 8: 1, 2, vhc. hc Reynolds; 3, r Adamson; c Cook. SELLING, 3: 1, 2 Reynolds; 3 Adamson.—EDMUND BATTERSBY.

HAMSTERS AT PLYMOUTH

Hamsters were included for the first time at Plymouth on July 19th. Entries were small but the quality was high. All stock were fed before dispatch and given clean hay by the stewards, who were local Hamster fanciers.

ADULT, 2: 1, 2 Duance, good colour and condition; 2nd falls colour and size. CUB, U/12 WKS., 5: 1 Uglov, smashing male, wins B.I.S., excellent colour, type and condition, nice head, good chest band; 2, vhc Duance, nice colour, falls undercolour and condition; 3, r Holmes, very promising kitten. CHALL., A.A.: 1 Uglov; 2, 3, r Duance.—W. L. C. MAY.

HAMSTERS AT WELLING

Two things stood out in the exhibits at Welling on July 19th: lack of condition and poor cheek markings. Few does taken from litters are in good show condition and in males especially, condition was, on the whole, very poor. There is also too great a tendency to confuse size with fatness. The reason for general lack of condition may lie in the use of too much cereal and biscuit food, and too little green. Exhibits were beautifully tame, and colour, on the whole, has improved. The winning adult was a beauty and of a richer gold than anything I have yet handled.

ADULT, M.: 1 vhc. hc Battersby, good rich colour, white belly, balanced markings, very even sides; 2 Reynolds, fine male, not up to the standard of the first; 3, r Baldwin, very promising youngster, clear even colour, good markings, fine condition. F.: 1 Battersby, wonderful, fine condition; 2 Reynolds, good, very close, but colour not so bright; 3, vhc. hc Baldwin, fine youngster, should make lovely adult; r Cowell. NOVICE EX. AND EX.: 1, 2, 3, r White, very promising team; vhc. hc Oldfield. BREEDERS: 1, 2 Battersby; 3, vhc. hc Reynolds; r, c White. CHALL.: 1, 2 Battersby; 3, r Reynolds; vhc Cowell.—JEAN E. COOK.

SPECIALIST CLUBS

(Continued from page 335.)

credit will be due to him if he can let us have this book within a few weeks of the new year.

I am sorry to report that our old friend, J. Jones, of Wolverhampton, is still in poor health, and is expecting to go into hospital again. We missed him at the show as it was the first time he had not been present. I wish him a return to health, and I hope the near future will see him with us again and enjoying the hobby he loves.—W. C. WOODS, Sec., and Treas., Sudbury, Derby.

NATIONAL HIMALAYAN RABBIT CLUB

ALL paid members of the Nat. Himalayan B.C. should have received a copy of the year book. I will gladly forward a copy to anyone who has been overlooked. The show season for Hims. is close at hand, and the president has given ample advice on preparing youngsters for show.

I ask all members to support shows which provide Himalayan classes. The young stock show will be held one week earlier to avoid clashing with another event in the locality. The date is now August 30th. The prize cards will be special, and will be souvenir cards. The club's extra prize scheme will operate at this show and at the adult stock show at Bentley on Oct. 25th.—C. WELLS, Sec., 2, Knighton Fields Road W., Leicester.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS IN THE CAVY WORLD

A List of Forthcoming Shows (with DATES OF ENTRIES CLOSING IN PARENTHESES)

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| August 2nd
Perthshire A.S.
Dumfries County
Emley (July 26) | Worcester (July 28)
Halifax (July 28)
Mottiram (July 28)
Hurstpoint
Rocheater (Aug. 5) |
| August 4th
Nuneaton (July 29)
Elmsworth
Elwick (July 26)
Wickford (July 28)
Watford
Coventry (July 28)
Urmston (July 30)
Didbury (July 29) | August 13th
Lytham St. Annes (Aug. 4)
Bingley (Aug. 2) |
| August 4th and 6th
Wollaton Park (July 28) | August 16th
Hinckley
Filey (Aug. 12)
Goxhill |
| August 6th
Cartmel (July 25) | August 22nd
Blackpool and Fylde (July 26) |
| August 6th and 7th
Leicester (July 28) | August 23rd
Heighington
Northumberland A.S. (Aug. 2) |
| Market Bosworth A.S.
Consett (Aug. 2) | Prudhoe (Aug. 9)
November 28th
Patchway |

N.C.C. Show

THE young stock show of the National Cavy Club will be held at Spalding on Thursday, Sept. 25th. The date was re-arranged in order to avoid clashing with the E.S.C.C. show at Silsden. Mr. Elkington will judge the 13 young self classes and Mr. Lodge will judge all varieties, bar self.

At the A.G.M. it was decided that a class be inserted at adult and Y.S. shows to commemorate the president, Mr. T. M. Sexton, and to be called the Sexton Memorial Class. There would be one prize only, £2 10. The class at this show is for any variety under 5 months. Entry fee is 2/-.

The adult stock show is to be held in conjunction with the National ch. show, London, on Tuesday Nov. 18th. The judges will be Selfs, Messrs. Tipper and J. H. Harrison; other varieties Messrs. J. Musgrave Sharp and A. Bishop.

The result of the ballot for Adult S.S. judges was selfs: A. Tipper 55, J. H. Harrison 36, M. Baxter 35, S. Kent 26, J. M. Sharp 14, W. H. Greenlees 12, P. Ashley 9, W. J. A. Surtees 7, A. Bishop 5, E. J. Brooke 4, A. Gilbert 2, Other Varieties: J. M. Sharp 36, A. Bishop 34, W. H. Greenlees 26, P. Ashley 25, E. J. Brooke 24, W. J. Surtees 19, A. Gilbert 19, J. H. Harrison 9, A. Tipper 8, S. Kent 5, M. Baxter 1.

Tortoise & White Club Notes

HERE is a list of shows at which T. and W. classes will be scheduled and at which club support will be given: Aug. 9th, Halifax Ag. 2/- 4th prize and two cup competitions; Aug. 13th, Airedale Ag., at Bingley, 2/- 4th prize, three cup competitions and Certificate of Merit for best T. and W.; Aug. 30th, Hixley Ag., 2/- 4th prize and two cup competitions; Sept. 3rd, Thornton Cleveleys 2/- 4th prize, three cup competitions and Certificate of Merit; Sept. 6th, Silsden Ag. Summer Show, three cup competitions, cup and Certificate and specials; Sept. 17th, Altrincham Ag. 2/- 4th prize (three classes), and two cup competitions; Nov. 18th, London, 2/- 4th prize; Dec. 6th, Annual Club Show at Coventry.

The three cup competitions are for the President's Cup, which is only offered when a T. and W. Club judge is officiating; the Eiskerret Bowl and the Parkes Challenge Cup. The two cup competitions omit the President's Cup.

I am in contact with other societies so that we can help as many shows as possible. I will be glad to hear from any society that would like help. All club specials at shows can be won only by paid-up members. The sub. is 5/- per annum.—F. F. Rogers, hon. sec. and treas., 55, Station Road, Featherstone, Pontefract, Yorkshire.

Northern No-Tail Notes

DURHAM and Northumberland Cavy Club's young stock show will be held at Bishop Middleham on August 30th, with Mr. J. W. Davies, Tew Law as judge. Mr. A. Watt, Sedgfield, will judge the adult classes. The usual cups and specials will be up for competition for the youngsters.

Eshwinning Rabbit and Cavy Club will hold an open pen show on Aug. 30th. Mr. S. Kent will judge the Cavies. All the classes have been guaranteed.

Wolsingham F.F.S. will hold an open pen show on Sept. 6th in conjunction with the agricultural show. I will be judging eleven classes for Cavies. The Kelvin Hall show, Glasgow, will be held on Nov. 13th, 14th and 15th.

Messrs. Orange and Sharp will judge at Stokesley show on Sept. 18th. The club, as usual gives cavies a wonderful classification, and good prize money has been guaranteed. Bradford championship show will be held again in January. This show was, and I am sure, will be again, the "gathering of the clans" for all small livestock fanciers, especially cavy fanciers.

POST-WAR CAT SHOWS ARE CAPTIVATING THE PUBLIC

CONGRATULATE Mrs. Newton, Miss Wilson, and the committee on their excellent organisation of an enjoyable show at Kensington. Post-war shows appear to attract far more spectators than pre-war events.

During the afternoon the hall was so crowded that I saw several people diving under the staging to get into the aisles. Much as I admire Blues and Siamese, it was very pleasing to see a better assortment of the other varieties; the red long-hairs and blue short-hairs were a lovely sight, and it was good to see the return of that senior fancier, Mr. Bassett and his daughter, with Abyssinians.

Several enthusiastic breeders came a long way just to see the exhibits. Mrs. Carbert, from Yorkshire, tells me her Blue male, Skeets, Teddie, which won at Notts, and Derby Show has grown into a most attractive cat and she hopes to show him this winter.

Miss Langston's female, Mair of Allington, by Deebank Michael ex Glory of Allington is a "flyer," I hear, and will be making his debut this season.

Mrs. Cheyne's long search for a new home in which she can give her cats more liberty, has been rewarded. She has left Stoke and is living at 25, Colindale Street, Bridgnorth, Salop. She has taken a lovely old place with an enclosed garden.

Mrs. Henn Bridgnorth, is pleased to have Mrs. Cheyne as a neighbour and will be glad to have Michael so near to use for her young queens. Dorella is nursing two very nice male kittens by him.

At Kensington I noticed Mrs. Hancox's son; he is in the Navy at present, but this is an interlude and he is destined for Cambridge University next year. I am sure Mrs. Hancox will be a great acquisition to the ranks of post war show managers. Mrs. Jude will be giving valuable advice and assistance to her.

Mr. Jude has just become a grandfather, and writes: "Yes! Fancy me a grandfather. I'll have to grow a beard now."

The Siamese Cat Club luncheon, on July 16th, for members and friends was a very jolly affair, and the guests appeared to be enjoying themselves. I hope it is a prelude to other social gatherings as many breeders welcome opportunities to compare notes and have a cat chat.

I was very pleased to hear from Mrs. France that she intends to breed Blues again. She gave them up about two years ago and devoted herself to Siamese. She writes from Jersey:

"I have Beaucourt Dandi a male which I bred from Tweedledee of Dunek with me. He is a delightful cat, he has been here nearly a month and already can be trusted to roam free in the garden without going away. I have not heard of any Blue long-hairs on the island, though someone mentioned my doctor used to have them.

"I long to have some Blue kittens again as they are so attractive. I want a good female kitten as a nice young queen suitable for Dandi."

Mrs. Bazely has agreed to write the Blue notes for one week. As she judged Blue adults at Notts, and Derby ch. show last December, and kittens at the N.C.C. show, it will be very interesting to read her impressions of present-day stock.

Mrs. Bazely has owned and bred several lovely Blues and Creams, probably her most famous cat was Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet, purchased as a kitten from the late Mrs. Wade. Three other well known Blues bred by her were Colneside Caruso, Colneside Beniamino and Colneside Bright Angel. All were winners in their open class at ch. shows, and sires of famous winners, notably Ch. Dream of Dunek and Playboy of the court.

Two famous Creams also home bred were Ch. Colneside Creame Bunne and Ch. Colneside Sunshine.

I congratulate Mrs. Chappell for having bred Gathorne Glenister, the best kitten in show at Kensington. It was sired by Gathorne Gremlin.

MRS. F. H. THOMPSON, 130, Wickham Way, Beckenham.

About Blacks and Whites

I HAVE had many visitors during the last few weeks, and it has been interesting to hear news and views about cats from strangers. A young woman from New Zealand told me that New Zealand has no pedigree cats or shows. Someone may have a nice female which breeds. The kittens find new homes, but must be "good hunters," otherwise they are not wanted.

Unfortunately, I had very few cats to show this visitor, as only a few days previously I had sold a young odd-eyed male and Candy could not be seen, as she was nursing a few days' old kitten.

CAVY NOTES—Continued.

The Northumberland Agricultural Society's show will be held on August 23rd on Town Moor, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr. Dick Waller, Shildon, will be manager of the Fur section. Wm. T. Surtees, Carley Hill Gardens, Southwick, Sunderland.

The Southern Cavy Club

THE following members have joined the Southern Cavy Club since the list of members for 1947 was published: Miss Bartholomew, Saham Hall, Thetford, Norfolk; Mr. R. Clark, "Roseneath," Ashridge Road, Chesham, Bucks.; Mr. J. W. Dore, 17, Manor Road, Newton Abbot, Devon. Through an oversight on my part the name of Miss McNeil, 1, Chaisworth Road, Gillingham, Kent, was omitted from the list of members. I apologise to Miss McNeil.

The result of the ballot for the young stock show, to be held at Chingford on Sept. 27th, are: T. Bareham 2, A. Court 1, H. Trigger 0, A. H. Brazil 1, Miss Raedeglia 11, T. Carr 2, W. D. Symons 1. Many thanks to all members for electing me to judge the Y.S.S. I was only sorry that more voting papers were not returned. All entries at the Chingford show will, of course, be dealt with by the

Then a man and his wife from France came to see my stock. They adore white blue-eyed Persians and kept two, a male and a female, for years, but both died during the war years.

I was asked what I fed to my cats. I told them, and both wanted to know how I managed during the war. I told them that it was not always easy to get horseflesh, but I got some somehow. They were greatly surprised when I mentioned horseflesh, as horseflesh during the war years in France was only obtainable for invalids and only then with a doctor's certificate. Even so, it was difficult to get. In England some people seem to think that our cats are badly treated by having to live on horseflesh. I always get the best, and in large joints, and these large joints usually look much more appetising than our minute rations.

A couple from Scotland wanted a kitten, but I had sold all mine. Two young men who were sent to me fell promptly in love with Smokie and wanted to buy him, but as he would have been neutered I did not sell him. He is too beautiful for that, and good Smokes are scarce; he should go to a breeder.

A Frenchwoman, who came in a great hurry, bought a kitten. She was delighted with it and would have bought two, but I had no more.

A young woman from Switzerland was charmed to see my cats and to find someone with whom she could converse in her own tongue, as she knew no English.

An elderly woman and her son brought a blue-eyed white Persian for me to see. It had been bred by myself ten years ago. I showed it as a kitten at the Kensington Kitten Show. He went through various hands until eventually this woman bought him. I sold him to a fancier who wanted him as a pet for a friend. Fanciers, friends and anybody interested in cats are always welcome in my house, but I am afraid I have no time to pay many visits myself, as I am much too busy these days.

A. H. CATTERMOLE.

Death of Mr. Cattermole

We regret to announce the death, on July 16th of H. N. Cattermole, 96, Dalberg Road, Brixton, S.W. 2. Though not a cat breeder himself he was well-known in the Fancy and took a keen interest in Mrs. Cattermole's work.

Southsea Cat Club

THE Annual General Meeting of the Southern Cat Club was held on July 9th. It was a great pity more members were not able to attend.

The Chairman, Councillor H. G. Cook was unable to preside, and Miss Ellis was elected for the meeting. The minutes were taken as read to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Mr. Allt was elected to the committee and the rest of the committee were re-elected en bloc.

Mrs. Cook-Radmore said she could not continue as delegate and it was decided that Mrs. Lauder, the President, be asked if she was willing to be delegate. All members are asked to send in their votes or nominations as soon as possible.

The balance sheet was presented and passed, and the Secretary's report on all inquiries made about a show, discussed. Mr. Allt proposed that, in view of the enormous and abnormal difficulties of getting hotels and a hall within reasonable distance of each other, no show be held this year, but with the Council finding different accommodation (The Town Hall being blitzed entirely), some places would no doubt be vacant by another year.

The club will support all shows with cups and classes, and although no contact for support was made for Kensington it was our intention to give medals to Best in Show and R.B. in Show if owned by a member.

There is great urgency that old members be asked to continue to support us and new members made. As March has always been a bad time for travelling, it was voted that the annual year remains as Mar. 1st but that the A.G.M. take place some time before May 31st.

Letters of regret were read from Mr. Yeates, Mrs. Lauder, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Allen Maturin, Mrs. Warren and Mr. Godding, and letters from Miss Fisher and Major and Mrs. Rendell were also read. A vote of thanks to Miss Ellis, Mrs. Dewar for their hospitality, and to Mrs. Cook-Radmore for her services ended a most pleasant meeting.

Mrs. A. R. Cook-Radmore, sec., Seven Oaks, Cowplain, Hants.

Chingford secretary, Mr. Webb, and all he asks for is plenty of work.

Mr. Treveal has guaranteed a class for Self cream u/4 months, and offers specials. Miss Bartholomew has guaranteed two Abyssinian classes, one for Tortoise and white u/4 months and the other for any other colour u/4 months. The following members have offered specials: Miss Chaffey and Messrs. Carr, Sayer and Stead. There are 15 fully guaranteed classes, and as far as members are concerned the prize money is 12/-, 6/-, 3/-, 2/6, 2/6. The entry fee is 2/-.

The annual general meeting will be held at the Y.S.S. Any member wishing to place propositions before the meeting should let me know not later than Sept. 2nd.

Special prizes offered at shows have been won as follows: Borough of Bexley, July 12th, best cavy, Mr. Perret's Abyssinian; Welling, July 13th, best Self, Miss Chaffey's young black boar; best any variety (bar Self), Mr. Hornby's Peruvian; best reserve, Mrs. Maunsell's Self black adult.

The next table show will be held in September, so watch FUR AND FEATHER for the advertisement.

The subscription is 5/- per year; partnership, 8/-; juvenile, 2/6.
Miss RADEGLIA, Hon. Sec., 7, Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey.

THE MOUSE IN RESEARCH

THE Mouse Fancy generally does not fully realise the important part their hobby plays in research.

I have recently had some very interesting correspondence with Mr. T. C. Carter, of the Department of Genetics at Cambridge, who is trying to trace the origin of a deformity of the feet occasionally met with in human beings. A Silver Brown mouse bred by me and sent to Cambridge in 1945 produced mice showing this deformity, which is best explained as follows:

At birth the hind legs appear to be turned in so that the soles of the feet face one another, or even face the belly.

The big toe of the hind feet usually has an extra joint, so that it is longer than the fifth toe and almost as long as the second. The foot is abnormally long.

In the adult the leg looks as if it has been broken and reset badly, so that the animal appears to be walking on the knee with the foot pointing out sideways.

In the adult the foot may appear twisted, so that the sole faces forwards or even upwards.

The evidence so far produced seems to prove that the deformity crops up mostly in silvered mice and the Cambridge people are anxious to have any specimens showing this defect.

I ask fellow fanciers to keep a lookout for any sign of this defect in their stock and if they should come across any abnormality of the feet to communicate with me.

I know the general course taken by most fanciers noticing anything of the sort would be to kill the mouse at once, but this would lose valuable data to science.
WALTER COLES.
15 Woodstock Road, Barnsley.

National Mouse Club Notes

By R. Ward, 57, Chantrey Road, Sheffield, 8.

I EXTEND on behalf of the club, my hearty congratulations to Mr. C. Lee, Bristol, on his recent marriage. All fanciers will join with me in wishing the happy couple every success. I don't know whether Mrs. Lee is a prospective fancier, but if she is I can assure her of a hearty welcome.

The recent "tip" on candle grease has brought me news from Mr. E. J. King, of Romford. He writes:

"I was pleased to see notes in FUR AND FEATHER about mice being cured of asthma by candle fat."

"At first I bought a trio of Fox and while one doe was in kindle both she and the buck contracted asthma. I tried plenty of hay and eucalyptus oil but they were of no avail. I was about to finish off the whole trio when I saw your notes. The candle fat cured them. At first they go at it ravenously and then when they are beginning to get well they leave it entirely alone. The doe now has five young and is bringing them up well."

Here are a few more notes from Mr. Partington on feeding. He has a few ideas of his own on the matter.

Fanciers must realise that Mr. Partington's article gives what he considers to be the perfect pre-war diet. In these days one has to be content with inferior rations and must be careful not to contravene any existing regulations.

Mr. Partington writes: "I could not get large healthy mice by soft bread feeding so I tried other methods and for many years I advised giving mice, especially does with litters, a good drink of milk."

"My youngsters looked like little pigs at the end of a week old. I give them toasted bread dry, and I put a few drops of oil from the tripe shop in the milk. This put a gloss on the coats, and size and type into the show cages."

"I gave them green food every day, mostly chickweed and clover grass."

"I liked to give milk morning and night before the war, as I bred cats which were fed on milk, toast and boiled fish heads. They were the biggest cats I had ever seen, so I thought if fish heads and milk would make big cats it should improve mice."

"I used to put the fish and skin and a few bones in each box with the morning milk. The youngsters could smell it and soon came out of their nests and licked the fish."

"I don't kill any youngsters off. I let the does rear the lot, for I am just test breeding and trying to improve colour and type in the mouse hat has beaten most breeders (The Red)."

"I pick out the youngsters that I want for my next test and the rest go as wasters. I don't use any small boxes; I have three test boxes four feet long, 20 inches wide and 20 inches high. They have large sliding glass fronts and ventilators at each end."

"I use about 40 does in the three large boxes. I use so many to avoid inbreeding. I don't use sawdust. I find chaff and chop are far better and the mice find a few oats and wild seed to keep them busy."

"I have a large tin wheel in each box and the mice have a good time turning it round. I can feed and clean the corners in a few minutes. I can see the mice without opening any doors or box top lids. It's a treat to breed mice in up-to-date accommodation."

Scottish Officers

OFFICERS of the Scottish Mouse Club are: Hon. president, James Don, Perth; president, W. Hally-Burton, Kinross; vice-president, P. Forbes, Perth; sec. and treas., C. Nicoll, Dundee; committee, W. Duncan, Newport; J. Dawson, Couper Angus; A. Steadman, Forfar; G. Herd, Kirriemuir; and W. Beveridge, Dunfermline.

The annual cup show will be held at Perth on Nov. 1st.

