

THE LATEST NEWS OF SPECIALIST CLUBS AND LOCAL SOCIETIES

Specialist Club Activity

THE BRITISH SABLE R.C.

THE Young Stock Show of the British Sable Club will be held at Grimsby on Aug. 16th. From what I can gather this is a Sable stronghold, so the success of the show should be assured, and the date should be all right for the majority of members. If anyone would like to offer specials for this event, he should send particulars without delay.

Siamese, Marten and Sable-rex trophies will be up for competition, and it is usual for one month's membership before one can qualify for these or other club specials. The membership is 5/- and new members will be especially welcome as I am wanting at least another 50 northern members, and if some of those Sable breeders whose names are submitted to me as winners of specials would only join, this figure could easily be attained.

I was amazed to hear about members withholding subs. on the off chance of the two clubs amalgamating, hoping that the one fee will do for both. Much ground will have to be covered in this direction yet, so members will be well advised to pay up.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting our Castleford members who are to take charge of the adult stock show this year. I haven't the slightest doubt regarding the success these keen fanciers will make of it.

Full support is requested for the following shows, certs. and cash specials are on offer: Sherburn-in-Elmet, June 14th; Cleveland Show, Redcar, July 23rd; Bristfield, July 26th. J. W. Sneed, Northern rep., 9, Hazel Road, Stockton-on-Tees.

BRITISH SABLE CLUB (Southern Section)

I HAVE been asked by Mr. Hanglin if I would act as southern secretary for the British Sable Club, in much the same way as Mr. Sneed does for northern members.

We all look for some club news at frequent intervals, but although space is restricted the greatest difficulty is to obtain material of sufficient interest for members. In this way members can be of assistance by sending any small items for which I will do my best to find room. The young stock show will be held at Grimsby on Aug. 15th.

This year we should aim and strive for quantity as well as quality, and show that good Sables are not so few and far between as some people imagine.

As exhibitors and breeders of Sables we all know what a delightful and beautiful animal they can be, but the new-comers cannot see the exquisite beauty and how valuable a breed we cater for unless it is put before them. For this reason I implore all members to give the breed publicity by showing at many of the open events which will cater for Sables during the year.

Among these are: Lewisham, June 14th; Crawley, June 21st; and Sussex Agricultural, July 16th and 17th. A. J. Power.

I have been giving thought to the possibility of running a type of knock-out competition, which would start with the Y.S.S. and the final round to be held at the adult stock show, but anything of this nature cannot be a success unless the members support it, so I shall be pleased to receive comments, so that we may keep the breed and club where they belong—at the top of the Fancy. I should like to hear from show secretaries, who will schedule a classification for the breed, and I will see what can be done in getting support. All inquiries should include stamped addressed envelope.—A. F. Williams, 101, Frederick Rd., Cheam, Surrey.

HARLEQUIN R.C.

THERE is going to be a good gathering of Harlequin Club members at the young stock show on July 5th. I am arranging a fur display as an added attraction. If any member can lend any fur articles they will be taken great care of. A large hall and plenty of pens are ready to cater for those hundreds of winners we read about in FUR AND FEATHER on Feb. 14th. The schedule has been adjusted to cater for them. It is hoped members will show their appreciation by making a record entry. The president, Mrs. J. Smith, has promised to attend and present the trophies.

If this summer weather continues members will be well advised to give their exhibits plenty of ventilation in the travelling boxes, and a handful of sawdust will ensure a more comfortable journey than a lot of bedding. All stock will be returned by 6 p.m.

Mr. J. Ockett has made an excellent recovery from his recent operation, and has celebrated it with some outstanding wins with his Harlequin Rex.

I make a special appeal to members to support the following shows for June: Rushden, 14th; West London, 21st; Eastbourne, 28th; and Enfield, 29th. These societies have engaged club judges.

The first club diploma will be on offer at Nuneaton on July 19th. Mr. L. V. Scott will judge four classes.—C. L. Bond, hon. sec., 35, Cleveland Street, Taunton, Somerset.

NAT. LYNX REX CLUB

I HOPE all members of the National Lynx Rex Club have made a note of the dates, etc. of club shows for 1947 in the May 30th issue of FUR AND FEATHER, and as the date of the young stock show is comparatively late, I hope members will have one or two youngsters showing in time to become members for the following year.

Please send me Lynx news to help make these notes of interest to all members.

Club support is offered at the following shows: June 21st, Beds. and Herts. Rex Club; July 12th, East Wilkesden; July 19th, Smethwick Fanciers Soc.

Subscriptions are 3/6 per annum, plus 1/- entry fee, and will be received with jubilation at the address below.—F. H. Barrett, hon. sec., 27, Station Rd., Methley, nr. Leeds.

NATIONAL ORANGE REX CLUB

THE president and chairman, Mr. Leaver and Mr. Danecourt, have asked me to take over the office of secretary-treasurer of the Nat. Orange Rex Club. I accepted this offer and I am expecting all matters relating to the club from Mr. Jackson any time now.

Will all members please let me have nominations for officers on or before July 4th. The ballot papers will be sent out as soon after that date as possible. The following is a list of 1946 officers and nominations that have so far come in for 1947 officers.

N.O.R.C. 1946 Officers: (1) President, T. Leaver (Kent); (2) chairman, W. A. Danecourt (Kent); (3) vice-presidents, A. Robinson (Ealing), T. Britton (Sutton Coldfield); (4) council, Mesdames White (High Wycombe); Jackson (Oxford), Messrs. W. A. Gibson (Isleworth, Middx.), R. Garrett (Eaton Bray, Eeds.), R. Makepeace (Oxford), T. White (High Wycombe), A. Robinson (Ealing). Sec-treas., L. W. Jackson (Oxford).

Nominations for 1947 Officers so far received:—President, T. Leaver; chairman, W. A. Danecourt; Council, Mesdames White (Eaton Ham), Marland (Leyland, Lancs.), Miss Morris (Oxford), Messrs. W. E. Lowe (Oxford), A. Robinson, R. Robinson (Ealing), W. A. Gibson (Isleworth), G. F. Baker (West Drayton, Middx.), Sec.-treas., T. Britton (Sutton Coldfield).

As I have not yet received the club books I cannot give an exact resume of the accounts. I have been informed, however, that the club is in very low water, and I believe this is in some way due to members not sending in their subscriptions. I cannot do anything without members' support, so please let me have subscriptions immediately so that I can report a paid-up membership by July 1st. If any member has already paid, but has not had a receipt, he should let me know.

The first club supported show was held in February, 1946, and since then nearly thirty shows have been supported. I believe, however, that very few cash specials or certificates of merit have been sent out. I hope to be able to give details of the award of the first club championship in my next notes. I would welcome members' opinions on offering cash specials. I show only for the honour, not what I get out of it in cash, therefore all I wish for are those certificates of merit.—Telford Britton, Hon. Sec. and Treas., 126, Rectory Road, Sutton Coldfield.

BEVEREN CLUB

FROM all round reports are coming in of good youngsters on the way to make up for those awful early disappointments, and after all, that is the joy of our hobby; disappointments are so often followed by good luck.

I shall be on holiday from June 8th to June 22nd.

I am still getting many applications for Beveren Club certificates without details of classes, or judges, or a stamp for reply. I want to descend to the level of no stamp no reply, but these letters are trying. The C.C.s are confined to open pen shows, judged by club judges, and catering for all four colours, either individually or collectively.

They are on offer at the following shows: June 21st, Kirkby-Muxloe, L. H. Bradley; June 25th, Keswick, Royal Norfolk show, R. Blake; June 28th, Ealing Mrs. MacLeod Smith; June 28th, Hampden Park, A. J. Power; June 29th, Enfield, P. Maynard; July 5th, Bradford young stock show, F. Gibbins, T. Binns, A.

THE FANCY IN SCOTLAND

Conducted by "Fur and Feather's" Own Correspondent, DANIEL BELL

AS one travels from one Scottish show to another one invariably listens to many grouses, one of which is the lack of Scottish news published in FUR AND FEATHER. If one got down properly to the subject of this grouse, viewing it from all aspects, probably the onus for non-appearance of anything Scottish could correctly be placed upon the heads of Scottish fanciers themselves.

One must differentiate between news and show reports. The publication of show reports is a matter which fanciers in Scotland hope will be viewed with more favour in the present season than during the past years.

It is not possible for many enthusiastic exhibitors to travel to Scottish shows to see how their exhibits have fared so they depend on FUR AND FEATHER reports. Without such publicity exhibiting loses much of its charm, and the opinion has been openly expressed that non-publicity has been used as a cloak to cover up discrepancies in the placing of awards.

This column, which will be allocated to Scotland every three weeks, is a new column. When I accepted the management of FUR AND FEATHER, its Scottish representative, I would, in a dependent upon far from their local interests, the following operation:

Illingworth, July 6th, Mill Hill, R. Blake; July 9th and 10th, Royal Cornwall, F. G. Woodgate; July 10th, Kent County, W. Mortlock.—H. Mautterer, 79, Demesne Road, Wallington, Surrey.

NORTHERN CHINCHILLA CLUB

OLD members of the Northern Chinchilla Club who have not renewed their subs. for 1947, and intending new members, are reminded that they should send along their 5/- before June 28th, in order to qualify for cups at the young stock show.

Several shows are offering good classification for Chinchillas and deserve full support. Among these are York and Batley, on June 28th, and Golcar on July 12th.—E. Smith, 104, Woodside Road, Lockwood, Huddersfield.

SOUTHERN CHINCHILLA CLUB

THE final arrangements for the Southern Chinchilla Club's points shows have now been completed. The first will be at Chippenham, Wilt., on June 28th, with Mr. E. Brewster to judge, Mr. A. Ince will be judging the Chippenham Club's classes. Please send along "bumper" entries, and duplicate freely into the Chippenham classes.

Schedules for the young stock show will shortly be going to press. We should be grateful for offers of specials and guarantees for this event as soon as possible so that they can be included in the schedule.

We now have a new design for the certificate of merit. These will be well worth winning, as they are an original design. The club will support shows at St. Pancras, June 22nd; Ramsgate, July 12th; Chichester, July 16th; S. W. Middlesex, July 13th; Molesey, July 12th and the Eastern Chin. Y.S.S. at Colechester, on July 19th.—L. Brewster and C. H. Sampson.

GREATER LONDON CHIN. CLUB

THE next table show of the Greater London Chin. Club will be staged on Saturday, June 28th, at Charlton, with T. Heaton to judge. This venue has been arranged by Mrs. Weatherley.

I hope members will do their best to provide specials for the young stock show. What are the wishes of the young fanciers? As yet I have received no reply to the offer published in these columns.

Support for shows is steadily on the increase, but show secretaries continue to ask for judges who are not on the club's panel. A list will be sent on application.

The club is supporting the following shows: June 28th, Ealing, C. of M. and 15/- specials, and Charlton, T. Heaton; Molesey, July 12th, L. Brewster; Middlesex South-West, July 13th, T. Leaver.—J. H. Kitner

NATIONAL HAVANA CLUB

THE Adult Stock Show of the National Havana Club will be held at Peterborough in conjunction with the Eastern Counties Havana Club, on Dec. 5th and 6th (Friday and Saturday and not Saturday and Sunday as previously announced). The judges so far engaged are Mr. Ralph Blake (Normals) and Mrs. D. Garrett (Rex).

The Young Stock Show will be held at Bristol, on July 19th.

Any paid-up member who does not receive a copy of the Year Book within the next few days should get in touch with me.—W. S. Davis, 75, Old Street, Clevedon, Somerset.

LANCASHIRE DUTCH CLUB

THE Young Stock Show of the Lancashire Dutch Club, on May 17th, was a very successful event from every angle. Entries came in far better than we had dared to hope. Owing to the very bad weather quite a good number of the exhibits were really in the baby stage, but may do better later on.

At the U.K. Adult Stock Show, at Chorley, when the club will be open to challenge the other area Dutch clubs for £25 a side to the best team, points will be awarded as follows: Seven for 1st to one for commended. The leading exhibit for each area in the colour classes will be the club's candidate. It may so happen that we shall have more than one challenger and if so the highest team shall be the winner of the whole of the fivers and so help to fill the balance for their respective area. Full details of the scheme will be sent to each area and we hope to have many contestants.—R. Warburton, Hon. Secretary.

Forthcoming Shows

CHESTER-LE-STREET and Birtley F.S. will stage the adult stock show of the Nat. Himalayan R.C. on Oct. 25th, in conjunction with a pen show. Prize money will be 20/-, 12/6, 7/6 and 5/- for 2/6 entry.

Rotherham Borough R.C. will hold an open show on Sept. 13th.

South Essex F.S. will hold a Young Stock Show on July 13th and an Adult Stock Show on Dec. 14th.

Whitby agric. show will be held on Aug. 13th and Mr. J. T. Hushwaite will judge the rabbit section.

Northampton F.S. will hold a show on July 17th.

Messrs. Power, Mortlock, and Whitaker will judge at North East Kent Club's show on Aug. 23rd in the Civic Hall, Orpington.

Messrs. Gough (Fancy and caviars), Grimsley (Fur), Howdle (Poultry), Ritchie (cats), and Gilbert (mice), will judge at Coventry F.F.S.'s members' young stock show on June 28th. Mr. F. Chappell will stage an exhibition of pelts and made-up garments.

Coventry F.F.S. will hold its second pen show of the year on Aug. 4th at Stoneleigh Abbey in conjunction with Kenilworth Agricultural Society's show.

Northumberland Agricultural Society's show will be held on Aug. 23rd.

Mr. Edmund Battersby, who is to judge hamsters at Bollington show on July 19th, will see that all the hamsters are entered in their correct classes and exhibitors' mistakes will be rectified.

At Worthing on Sunday, June 22nd, Worthing Club will entertain Cheam (Park Farm) R.C.

ON MY WAY

By RALPH BLAKE

MALDON (Essex) F.S., of which Mr. Hawkins is the secretary, staged a good show on Whit-Monday in connection with the agricultural show. Thanks to splendid stewards, judging was over in good time and all were able to watch some excellent horse events in the afternoon. Mr. Harvey was chief steward. Mr. Joyce, show manager, was ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Duce and Messrs. Catchpole and Deer.

I was delighted to meet an old London fancier, Mr. "Joe" Best, late of Battersea, who is now living at Maldon. "Joe" used to be active in London Dutch circles, but tells me that he now has Tans.

Watford, on Whit-Monday, again proved a great success and drew a good crowd of fanciers from all parts. Mick Tibbets, Burton-on-Trent, was one of my co-judges. Mick told me that "Ted" Kinson, Burton, has lost the whole of his stud of tortoise English through feeding on grass cut from the bowling green, which had previously been treated with worm killer. This must have been a sad blow to our old friend after the years of careful thought and breeding that had brought his stud to such perfection.

Moral: Never feed lawn cuttings until you are sure that no weed or worm killer has been used.

I met a fancier recently who is so scared of contaminated greenfood that he never uses it at all. All his rabbits have hay and water. This seems to me to be too drastic and most unnatural.

One of the great pleasures in a fancier's life is seeing his stock enjoy a feed of luscious wild greenfood. Cauliflower and cabbage leaves must be safe, for if poisonous substances were used on these they would surely kill us. Anyway, one can always dip the greens in a bath of water.

In the recent heat wave I sweltered my way to Mablethorpe, where Mrs. Kidd, the secretary, had put on a well organised show, which, like all others just now, suffered from the late start to the breeding season, and no doubt many pens were empty owing to the excessive heat.

Again I would stress the utmost importance of well-ventilated travelling boxes. Remember that a rabbit's body generates a great amount of heat when shut up in a box, which, plus an outside temperature of 80 degrees, must make its travelling quarters pretty uncomfortable.

Eastleigh fanciers put up a recent show. Black and

FANCY MICE DRAW THE PUBLIC AT THE AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

By DICK WARD, 57, Chantrey Rd., Sheffield 8.

Coming Events
 June 14th—Liverpool.
 June 21st—Nottingham.
 June 28th—London.
 July 5th—Hednesford.

THE Midland Federation is to hold a show at Hednesford, Staffs., on July 5th. There will be 12 classes for mice with Mr. Evans as judge and the classification will be advertised in FUR AND FEATHER.

Mr. Evans is one of our oldest members and, if only for his sake, I ask all members to give this show their fullest support.

Mr. Farrar writes me again following the comments on his suggestion of chromium fronts for Maxeys. He writes:—

"I read with interest the letters in FUR AND FEATHER regarding the Maxeys. Some seem to think I would be putting my name and address on my mice and just asking for the red card, but I can take a licking as well as give one. The best can be beaten, but one has to be content whatever happens.

"Some again seem to think the cost of chromium would be too much. Look at it this way; had all Maxeys had chromium front from the start and one was starting in the mouse Fancy, there would have been nothing said about the cost. One would have just bought a few cages and thought nothing about it.

"My opinion is that if you are going to have a thing you might as well get something good. We all know the best is cheapest in the long run.

"Now a word regarding the Hebden Bridge show. There was a good bench full of mice set out in good style and there was a big crowd to see the fancy mice. Jack Wormald set into the mice with that 'head gear' of his and finished long before many others would have done and gave a comment on every mouse. Mr. and Mrs. Whitworth also did their work in grand style; if anybody knows the job they do.

"It was a treat to see such a crowd around the mice, asking all sorts of questions about them. To my mind there were some fanciers who tried to spoil it for new-comers. The first thing they do is to get out the mouse than beat them and then start an uproar."

Mr. Walter Coles, Barnsley, has contributed an article on Silver Fawns and Browns. If anybody is qualified to write on these elusive varieties it is Walter. To my own knowledge he has been pegging away at them for some years now. It must be the patience that is developed by the breeder of Browns that cannot resist the challenge of the difficult variety. At the same time, I cannot deny the truth about what he says about the fun and pleasure of the unusual.

What I will say is that the fancier who can produce and maintain a winning strain of Silver Fawns or Browns will deserve all the honours he wins. I have done a bit of dabbling myself and I frankly confess that they had me beaten.

The venue for the annual show has not yet been fixed. This year it should be held in the North. I should be glad to hear from secretaries willing and able to cater for this, the big event of the N.M.C. year.

IN FAVOUR OF THE SILVER FAWN AND SILVER BROWN

By WALTER COLES

"START with a good trio from an established strain." How often has the above been written in articles giving advice to novices on how to make a start in the mouse Fancy?

I am not criticising this advice, which as far as it goes, is excellent. If all you want from the Fancy is to get among the red cards as quickly and easily as possible, then it meets the case.

Don't forget that someone has had to make that established strain. Why let him have all the fun, pleasure and honour?

This article is not particularly for the novice; rather is it an appeal to the fancier with an adventurous spirit, and to those who would still breed small live stock, whether there were any red cards to be won or not.

Half the pleasure of live stock breeding is in making a strain of your own. It takes longer, and perhaps you will be some time before the coveted red cards come home, but the thrill when they do will be twice as great.

My readers will be wondering what this has to do with the silver fawn and the silver brown. I will explain.

There are among the many varieties of mice a few which have never seemed to become popular. The most beautiful of these are the Silver Fawn and the Silver Brown. There is also another Silver for which at present there is no standard—the Silver Agouti. It is the counterpart of the Silver Brown rabbit and is a most handsome fellow.

Twenty years or so ago, there were one or two strains of very good Silver Fawns, but I never remember many good Silver Browns.

We call them Silver Browns. During the last fifteen years these strains seem to have died out. There is a sudden harvest of fancy mice and the fancier who has successfully put a good specimen in the Fancy has had success in

Pair up the Silver Grey buck to the Chocolate does, and the Chocolate buck to the Silver Grey does and await results.

Silvering is recessive to non-silvering, and it is most likely that all the youngsters will be Self Blacks. Don't be down-hearted. Mate back the young does to the old bucks, and one or two of the young bucks to the old does, and you should then produce a certain percentage of Chocolates, some showing signs of silvering. Keep the best of these, discarding the Blacks, and gradually a strain of Silver Chocolates will be built up. It will not be a quick job of work, but it is the half-way mark towards a strain of Silver Fawns.

This is where the fun begins. There are two alternatives, first to introduce the pink-eyed fawn cross, second, to introduce the red cross. From the first will be produced Silver mice of varying shades, from light Chocolate to Champagne, but the silvered pink-eyed Fawn is conspicuous by its absence. Why I cannot tell you. From the red cross will come Silver Cinnamons, Silver Sables and Silver Agoutis. Silver Cinnamons are the nearest I have yet got to the Silver Fawn, and most of my winners were Silver Cinnamons. What I really want to breed is what the standard asks for: "A deep bright orange, with even silvering throughout, carried well on to feet." If any fellow fancier can do this and beat me to it, I shall be the first to congratulate him, as he will have achieved something worth while. He will have brought back to the mouse Fancy a most beautiful variety and founded a strain that will be sought after by many.

What about it? Who is going to be the first

to win the coveted "Best in show" with a Silver Fawn?

FRED APPEYARD

NEVER can the saying "In the midst of life we are in death", have been better illustrated than in the case of Fred Appeyard, who was taken from us at such short notice. He was in his usual health the day before his death and passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Fred was a mouse fancier of the first water and how he bred such "big uns" I never knew. Well do I remember him coming to see me along with his partner, Mr. Harold Hayward, after winning a double championship with a P.E. White at one of the Leeds great mouse shows.

But not only as a mouse fancier was Fred esteemed, for a better disposition could not be found in a day's march; kindness and good nature were blended together in a personality who will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Our sympathy and condolences go out to his sorrowing relations.

C. H. JOHNSON.

The death of Fred Appeyard at the early age of 40 came as a great shock to his many friends and the whole of the mouse Fancy.

Fred was taken to his last resting place on Friday, May 30th, in his native Doncaster. Fanciers present were Messrs. Downs, Carey, Heighton and Hayward. Mr. J. Wormald represented Mr. C. H. Johnson and the National Mouse Club executive.

LONDON MOUSE CLUB'S SHOW

The London Mouse Club's show will be held in the Jann Harvard Schools, Union Street, Blackfriars Road, on June 28th. Mr. T. R. Howe, 20 Nutfield Road, East Dulwich (not East Woolwich as given in a recent advertisement), London, S. E.22, is the secretary.

CATS

Two Few Blue-Eyed White Persians

I HAVE just heard of the arrival of another litter of four White Persian kittens, two males and two females. They are by my young stud Ch. Lotus Mollere. The only pity is that the dam, although a White Long-hair, is chance bred. I have advised the owner to register the mother of these kittens and to keep the best female kitten out of this litter for further breeding, and I think she will do it. I am very pleased about this litter as the queen was a maiden and very, very shy. I had expected that she would have to come back again for a second mating. Three more queens are in kitten to him now!

I have just sold one of his litters, but I made a point of selling it to breeders and fanciers only as they were too beautiful to be lost to the Fancy. There are far too few good Blue-Eyed White Persian kittens at present. I have just heard that some may be shown at the Kensington kitten show.

I also sold a Blue-Eyed White Short-hair queen recently to Mrs. Harrison, Pinner. She is a very nice cat indeed, although I was unable to trace her pedigree. Unfortunately, she gave her new owner the "slip" one night and was lost for a couple of days, but turned up again with the swains in tow. One male was a Black Short-hair and the other one a White Short-hair. The White Short-hair, Mrs. Harrison told me, was not bad at all except for eye colour. But even so she may produce a blue-eyed kitten, as she did the same thing once before.

Mrs. Harrison started breeding Blues about the same time as I did Whites, soon after the 1914-1918 war. She married and gave up breeding for some years, but is as keen and enthusiastic on cats as ever and is taking cats up once more.

Besides this Short-hair White Mrs. Harrison has purchased a charming little Blue female.

Miss Marriott, that well-known fancier of beautiful Blacks, has some lovely Black kittens and may be exhibiting them at Kensington show. A. H. CATERMOLE.



INVESTIGATION INTO A POUCH INJURY IN THE HAMSTER

A FEW months ago Mr. H. W. Reynolds published in these columns a veterinary surgeon's report on a mysterious condition which has been called "the staring eye disease" because of the peculiar way in which one eye bulges from its socket. The report likened the state to Schmerle's Disease but, being dissatisfied, we decided to investigate the matter. The result will be of interest to all breeders who have had this trouble, or who are likely to meet it in the future.

An animal which is vigorous and apparently normal very suddenly shows a swelling of the face and is generally greatly distressed, though cases of only slight distress have been observed. At this stage the animals have never been seen to take food and it is reasonably certain that they go off feed completely. The eyes become affected very soon after the face swelling begins, one increasing considerably in size, both losing their lustre and pus appearing in the orbits of one or both. The region of the nose and mouth becomes inflamed, the tongue is generally swollen and respiration becomes laboured and audible. After this stage the facial swelling is greatly intensified, the enlarged eye bulges to at least twice its normal size and keratinization of the cornea is apparent.

In the final stage the legs fail to support the weight of the animal and this state may persist for four or five days before death occurs.

Before going on to describe the nature of the disease it should be said that it is neither infectious nor hereditary and, therefore, breeders need have no qualms about purchasing stock from a stud in which the trouble has been known to exist. Perhaps it should be mentioned here that I am not a breeder and therefore do not stand to gain or lose anything from the reaction of breeders to a diseased stud, but the fact that many breeders keep their troubles secret greatly hampers research when the trouble in question is something new in animal pathology.

Post-mortem examination indicates that the trouble is general septicaemia arising from injury to, and infection of, one of the pouches. In every case the pouch is either pierced or inflamed, and hard material is generally found to be lodged within the pouch, outside which an abscess is formed. The "staring eye" has shown itself to be very prevalent in studs where oats are fed to the animals and it is reasonably certain that the husk of the grain is the initial cause of the trouble, but it cannot be assumed that other sharp or abrasive matter does not have the same effect.

At present it cannot be said if the infection is actually introduced by the oat husk or if the poisonous organisms are already within the pouch and are merely admitted to the blood stream by the injury to the pouch lining. The latter possibility is, in fact, the more probable.

It was at first thought that death occurred as a result of fatigue produced by starvation, but later evidence would suggest that this is not so, though wastage does occur to an advanced stage. Once the animal has been infected a serious seepage of blood plasma from the blood vessels takes place, probably due to excessive production of histamine, a chemical substance formed when body cells are damaged and which has the effect of increasing the permeability of the capillary vessels. As the water and essential nutrients necessary to replenish the plasma are lost in by the animal, the blood becomes thick and additional

recovered from the infection. The only thing to do then, is to take some precaution against infection. This can be done by feeding only soft food and smooth, clean grain, and by taking care that the hutch is such that the animals cannot splash bits of wood or pieces of wire into their pouches as a result of their gnawing activities.

There is one other point to be watched. Injury may arise from the pouching of Lay or other sharp material from the nest. There is not much that can be done about this, but care can be taken to see that very crisp hay is not used and that it does not contain thorns, horse-hair, or any of the hundred and one sharp impurities that can be found in samples of hay. If there were a needle in the hay stack there is a hundred to one chance that the Hamster would find it!

Remember that recovery is unknown and that the animal suffers considerable pain. It is kinder to dispatch the animal than to allow it to live once the swelling of the eye appears.

Any relevant information, particularly anything which appears to contradict any part of my article, if sent to Mr. Reynolds, will be passed on and will be welcomed.—V.

Spring Show at Watford

IN the adult female and novice I had two very good classes and some very nice animals. Improvement in colour, for which highest marks are awarded according to the present standard, is unquestionable and pronounced, but there is still room for improvement in richness of colour. Belly-white is still patchy in general, and unbroken chest bands are still the exception rather than the rule from the exhibits I handled. They were a very good natured collection of Hamsters, a testimony to their owners, but two exhibits were under-nourished and would never stand a chance on the judging bench, particularly alongside some of the extremely well-fed and highly contented specimens. Pen 23 contained a very good specimen of a "light" Hamster; it could not be given an award under the present standard, but it represents a flying start for its owner should "shades" be introduced, great pity it was not entered in A.O.S. class. My thanks to Mr. Reynolds for his assistance and efficiency as steward and congratulations to Mr. Baker for his slick show secretariatship; we got along like a Bill going through Parliament. W.J.C.

Mr. W. J. Cook's Classes.

AD. DOE. 22: 1 Reynolds, a smasher, not completely free from shading and inclined towards middle-aged spread, but in excellent condition and very true to present standard in essential points; 2 Houldsworth and Ingham, more even in colour, but not as rich as winner, good dense coat and well-furred belly; 3 Adamson, nice, inclined to be light, cheek flashes could be more pronounced with advantage but good head and type; r Battersby; vhc May; hc Reynolds; c Butcher. NOVICE. 24: 1 Adamson, nice little doe, even colour but just on light side, good ears and eyes, belly could be whiter; 2 Moreman, nice young doe, good colour and texture but up against a winner; 3 May, very close, but beaten by richness of colour; r Morton; vhc S. Hall; W. J. COOK.

R.C.T.B.C.B.T NOTFS

MISS SCAMON has sold to Miss Hildyard of the Anchor Cattery a lovely red daughter of her famous queen, Wivilscombe Minehana and my red champion, I shall keep this little lady under my eye, so am glad she has come so near as Liphook. Miss Hildyard has some very promising kittens by her winning cream, Mittens of Sunfield and Miss Du Port's Blue stud, Idmiston Dream Boy and I believe Miss Du Port has purchased a Blue-cream of the litter.

Mrs. Walker writes, "I was very pleased to hear of the welfare of 'Patch' (this is the handsome winner, L.H. Tortoise I bought after the Notts. and Derby show) but alas, I lost her sire, Ronada Danny Boy, in Dec. last at only four years old and have purchased in his stead Mrs. Clarke's Glenroy Christopher, by her handsome Adonis of the Court." Past owners appreciate reference to their former pets and Marlena Patchwork had certainly been much loved. She is the most gentle of cats.

Young Mr. Alex Whyte deposited Hendon Marigold and her Red babe at her old home last week. Marigold had passed her turn of kitting with him and he had the satisfaction of seeing her rear five bonny kittens. Lady Sybil Grant and Mrs. Cox have purchased two of the males, Lady Sybil Grant was kindly introduced by Miss Collins of Pixlewood, and the kitten bears the name of a Derby winner bred by the Earl of Roseberry. Lady Sybil Grants father.

MRS. G. CAMPBELL FRASER

Little Primrose, Godalming, Surrey.

BLUE NOTES

I WAS pleased to hear from Mr. Soderberg that his young Blue male, Deebank Periwinkle, is a proved sire.

Owing to the severe weather he did not send his Chinchilla queen, Foxburrow Camilla, to Miss Langston's male as he intended, but mated her to Periwinkle. The result is interesting, as she has four Silver Tabbies which he anticipates will have orange or pale gold eyes, as these colours are dominant to the green eyes of Chinchillas.

If the kittens are well marked they should be an acquisition to someone wishing to start breeding this very lovely variety.

His blue Chinchilla, Foxburrow Wendy, mated to the same male, produced three very pale Chinchillas and one Blue. This is remarkable, as with three-quarters Blue pedigree one would expect Blues to predominate. Possibly the white in Chinchillas is dominant, as it usually is when Whites are mated to Blues or Creams.

It would be interesting to have Mr. Jude's opinion on this point.

Mr. Soderberg tells me that they are nice kittens, excellent in type.

His Blue queen, Thieval Charming, bred by Mrs. Crickmore, is also in kitten to Periwinkle, and Mrs. Pepper's Croydon winner, Farways Blue Para, has just visited him. Mr. Soderberg is only taking a few queens as he considers an average of about one queen a week sufficient for a young male in the breeding season.

I think that it is a pity that the breeders had not been more successful in their per-

