

ENORMOUS DEMAND FOR CAVIES

Conducted by C. V. B. Taylor, 16, Buile Hill Drive, Salford 5

"ARE mangolds preferable to swedes?" In answer to this a Suffolk cavy fancier writes: "I have always fed my stock on mangolds, even from November each year, and have never seen any ill-effects. I am still using them, along with a good assortment of fresh green food."

Never have I known such a great demand for caviae as at the present time. From fanciers who are anxious to start cavy keeping, but are unable to purchase any stock. "I have written to advertisers in *FUR AND FEATHER*," writes a Lancashire fancier, "but I have always had my money returned."

I have received numerous inquiries from fanciers asking if I can put them in touch with anyone who has caviae for disposal, but of course, I can only refer them to the advert. columns.

Another complaint is that many show secretaries are not inserting the classification in their show adverts., and as the show date approaches, fanciers say, "Surely the classification will appear in this week's issue of *FUR AND FEATHER*." When it is not given the time is too short to write to the show sec. for a schedule, and so entries are not sent. I am convinced that secretaries are backing a loser by withholding the full classification and it is, to say the least, false economy.

ARE THERE TOO MANY CAVY CLUBS?

A FANCIER at Fareham, Mr. A. E. Mason, writes about the number of cavy clubs to-day, and thinks we have too many of them. I don't altogether agree. We have not too many if they are all doing their job right. The Fancy cannot have too many workers, but it is possible for much effort to be wasted through being used in wrong directions. I agree, however, that we have too many clubs with a membership radius so far flung that it nullifies much of the good work they were intended to carry through.

Another fancier asks me to give some hints on breeding creams and whites. I have not space in this article, but I will remember him in my next notes.

My next word is one of apology, and to a lady whom I would not offend willingly for all the caviae in the land. When writing of area and county clubs recently I mentioned the Durham and Northumberland Club as the only one with a restricted membership radius. Miss Radeglia, the capable hon. sec. of the Southern Cavy Club and who, incidentally, is doing great work for caviae in the South of England, calls me to order by pointing out that her club restricts its membership to fanciers residing in the Southern half of England. I'm glad to hear this, and just as glad to make the correction. My apologies to Miss Radeglia.

She tells me that caviae are to figure prominently in the programme of the big National show in London in November. I'm glad to know this and I have forwarded to Miss Radeglia a few suggestions I think may be helpful in making the show more attractive and, incidentally, giving caviae greater publicity.

Now for a question I dare not answer. It was put to me in all seriousness and, I may say, in all sincerity, by a comparatively new fancier who recently paid me a visit. "How is it," he asked, "that every time under some judges we find the same exhibitors winning all the premier awards, yet they don't do it under other judges?"

It's not a new question, and it was not by any means the first time it has been put to me. So far, however, I've managed to dodge giving a definite answer preferring to let fanciers draw their own conclusions. The awards may be quite fair and above board, or they may at times be to the contrary, but it is not for me to say. I did, however, tell my novice visitor what I do in such cases, and it is this. If I think that a judge is unfairly giving too many favours in any one direction I refuse to make entries at shows where he is to officiate. If every exhibitor would do the same we should soon effect an alteration, as no up-to-date show executive would engage a judge who did not draw a representative entry. Not all such awards are wrong, as it is only natural for an exhibitor to follow the judge who likes his exhibits and gives them prizes. But there are other kinds of awards at times, and they don't do any good to anyone, not even the men who receive them, as they are apt to gain an exaggerated opinion of their stock, which may lead to carelessness in breeding and the ultimate deterioration of the stud.

Many years ago I wrote a book on caviae but, unfortunately, I have lost my copy. Has any reader a copy he would like to sell, or, if he desires to keep it, would he kindly loan it to me for a short while? I'll take every care of it and guarantee to return it. A line to my home address, 2, Leamington Drive, Idle, Bradford, would be appreciated.

ALLAN WATSON.

Tortoise and White Cavy Club

MR. METCALFE will judge at the Tortoise and White Cavy Club's young stock show at Bailey, on June 28th. At 3 p.m. the postponed annual general meeting will be held, and it is hoped as many members as possible will be present.

I am still able to receive invitations to hold the summer show and annual show. The first will be held during August or early Sept., and the latter, early in December. I want to get the dates and venues of these shows settled at the annual meeting so that I can get on with the arrangements.

Any secretary wishing to stage either of these shows should write to me as soon as possible, stating terms. The club will guarantee T. and W. classes, and will provide the judge.

New members to the club are welcome. The annual sub. is 5/-.—P. F. ROGERS, 55, Station Road, Featherstone, Pontefract, Yorks.

Judges for N.C.C. Young Stock Show

The following members of the Nat. Cavy Club show have been elected to judge at the young stock show.—Selfs (1): P. Ashley 5, M. Baxter 21, S. W. Elkington 30, J. W. Harrison 11, S. Kent 18, G. R. Lodge 6, Miss Radeglia 19, W. T. Surtees 3, A. Tipper 24. Other varieties (1): P. Ashley 24, M. Baxter 2, S. W. Elkington 8, J. H. Harrison 15, S. Kent 4, G. R. Lodge 43, Miss Radeglia 8, W. T. Surtees 30, A. Tipper 6. Number of papers 138.—Scrutineer, H. Dyson.

The Allan Bishop Fund

THE Allan Bishop fund is now closed. I have received all the donations and I thank all fanciers who have contributed.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	11	11	6
Abyssinian Cavy Club	5	0	0
National C.C.	3	3	0
Mr. W. H. Greenlees	2	2	0
Anon.—per Mr. W. H. Greenlees	1	0	0
Grimsbay and Dist. Fur Fanciers	2	10	0
Mr. Shaw	7	6	0
Mr. F. Hulme	1	0	0
Mr. E. Hopper	5	5	0
Mr. Perry	10	6	0
Miss J. Radeglia	10	6	0
Miss Bartholomew	10	0	0
Total	£33	9	6

NAT. MOUSE CLUB OFFICIALS

Coming Events
June 21st.—Tottingham.
June 28th.—London.
July 5th.—Hednesford, Staffs.
July 26th.—Stroud.

THE following is the result of the National Mouse Club 1947 annual election: President—Mr. A. C. Jude, Vice-Presidents: Mr. C. H. Johnson 106, Mr. J. Busby 95, Mr. H. Booth 92, Mr. T. Robinson 88. Committee: Mr. J. Wormald 79, Mr. B. H. du Boisson 76, Mr. W. Coles 70, Mr. W. Maxey 69, Mr. F. Appleyard 68, Mr. P. Ashley 65, Mr. E. Skinner 63, Mr. W. Turton 60, Mr. R. Clark 59, Mr. J. Watks 56, Mr. H. F. Plucknett 53, Mr. G. W. Starkie 47.

By error the names of Mr. R. Ward and Mr. F. C. Horton were included on the ballot paper for election to committee. These two officials are ex-officio to the executive.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. R. Ward. Hon. Cup and Assistant Secretary, Mr. F. C. Horton. Club Judges: Messrs. A. C. Jude 117, R. Ward 116, H. Booth 112, C. H. Johnson 111, J. Busby 107, F. C. Horton 103, F. Appleyard 100, B. H. du Boisson 100, T. Robinson 96, W. Coles 96, J. Wormald 91, J. Watks 83, H. F. Plucknett 80, W. Turton 78, Mrs. E. D. Blowers 77, E. Skinner 76, R. Clark 74, G. W. Starkie 73, G. Fullbrook 73, T. Fitzwater 72, J. Wood 72, J. Tunnicliffe 71, A. L. Edmondson 70, W. Sedgwick 69, J. W. Hustler 67, W. J. Allchurch 65, M. Maxey 61, A. F. Erswell 59, E. J. Ellis 57, J. Perrin 57.

As life judges Messrs. Jude, Johnson, Coles, Plucknett, Turton, Clark, Starkie, Fullbrook, Wood, Hustler, Allchurch, Maxey and Mrs. Blowers should not have been included on the ballot papers for election as judges. The following are included in the elected judges list: Messrs. H. Welsh 56, T. Keers 51, A. Whitworth 49, W. H. Milnes 46, R. Beard 45, R. Clayburn 44, F. A. Hignell 44, W. S. Wragg 43, G. W. Ford 42, E. W. Tressider 42, P. Ashley 41, L. Marriott 40, E. G. Fountain 39. This includes two extra judges to take the places of Mr. T. Robinson and Mrs. E. D. Blowers who for business reasons are unable to accept. Annual Show Judges: A. C. Jude 57, C. H. Johnson 46, R. Ward 40, P. Ashley 33. Life Member: G. W. Starkie 49.

I offer my sincere thanks to members of our club for my re-election as president. I thank them, too, for the votes recorded for myself as one of the annual show judges. I feel proud of these honours, and, in turn, I hope to show my appreciation by doing whatever I possibly can to further the interests of the club.

It was a pleasure to be able to attend the Spring Cup show at Sheffield and to note the continued interest and enthusiasm of members present. It was a pleasure, too, to take the chair at the executive meeting. This was the best attended executive meeting for some years. In the main, I suppose, this would be due to the easier conditions than those of war-time, but I think that it is a sign that we are all "well together" and anxious to speed along to even better things in "N.M.C." affairs.

I wished all club members could have popped into the meeting room and to have been able to notice the keenness and desire of their representatives to solve the various items on the agenda to best advantage and for the common good. It was a tonic to me and I look forward that the more frequent we propose will help to play a part in the future success of the club. I know the newly elected committee will act with the old traditions ever in mind.

While I was preparing the election results the news reached me of the passing of Fred Appleyard. His death came as a shock to me, as I know it would to so many. Fred was a comparatively young man, yet one who had been very keenly interested in club and Fancy affairs for a considerable time. As a P.E.W. specialist I cannot think of his equal. When one thought of P.E.W.s the names of Appleyard and Hayward in partnership were thought of in natural sequence. We shall always remember our friend as a first-class sportsman and a gentleman. His loss from our ranks causes a very real regret. To his sorrowing wife and relatives I offer my deepest sympathy.

ALBERT C. JUDE, President.

HOW TO PREPARE PIGEONS FOR SHOW

By W. WATMOUGH

THE editor of *FUR AND FEATHER* has asked me to write a short article on the preparation of exhibition pigeons for show. I have told him that I do not think he realises the magnitude of the task, and he has replied, in a manner common to editors, by saying: "Generalise!" And that is all I can do in the space at my disposal, because every variety requires different treatment. Marked varieties demand a certain amount of legitimate feather trimming; the short beaked varieties have to have their beaks filed; the wattles of some breeds have to be treated with sandpaper, and some varieties, such as Fantails, Croppers, Pouters, Pigmy Pouters, etc., want much more show pen training than do others. In some breeds washing is necessary. Some time in the future I will write an article on washing, about which I have learnt such a lot in the washing of budgerigars, and which I am sure will be useful to pigeon fanciers whenever they have to wash their birds.

The one great general basis of show preparation is not the actual attention given to the bird in the last week before a show, it is in getting the pigeon concerned into such perfect condition that it is capable of impressing the judge by virtue almost solely of its personal fitness, in addition, of course, to its good exhibition structural and colour properties.

If a pigeon is not fit it cannot be made fit by washing, keeping in a show pen, trimming, beak filing, or anything of that sort. Physical fitness is the outcome of good housing, good management, correct feeding and inherent vitality. When the show pigeon is in tip-top form all that remains to be done is to ensure that it is clean when it is exhibited, to wash its feet and to pay to it other attentions to the toilet, the file or the tweezers, as is demanded by the particular breed or variety which the owner is to pen at the show.

Let me now almost at random give a few tips on the actual show preparation prior to the bird being dispatched to fight for the red ticket. Again I can only very broadly generalise.

If the specimen with which we are to deal is a variety which calls for beak filing, as in the African Owl, the English Owl or the Turbit, do not let the horn of the upper mandible grow so long that it has to be removed with a pair of scissors, and then file within a few days of the show. Keep the beak filed regularly so that little extra has to be done on the last day. Never file back into the quick causing bleeding. This is cruel and harmful.

In the Dragoon, where wattles have to be as smooth and neat as possible, do not leave the removal of the excessive wattle until the show date has almost arrived. Keep the wattle regularly sandpapered. Legitimate feather trimming is a very skilful operation. I am not the man to describe it. I have never kept a breed which required such skilful handling in this respect as for instance, a Mottle Tumbler. Perhaps the editor will persuade someone of our trimming experts to write him an article.

I think it is nice to show birds with their feet washed, and some of the old breeders, following the example of poultry exhibitors, add a little vinegar to the water. They say it makes the feet look more red in colour. I do not know whether it has this effect or not. I do not do it myself.

Before we exhibit budgerigars they are regularly sprayed with cold water twice a week through the show season, and I think this is a good idea for pigeon fanciers to adopt. It helps to retain cleanliness. If a white bird is very soiled spraying alone will not keep it sufficiently clean and it will have to be washed.

Whatever the breed may be, regular confining in a show pen for many weeks before the show season starts is desirable. It makes the bird more steady, and, therefore, more attractive to the judge.

I have, as I said at the beginning of this article, generalised, but perhaps I have said sufficient to indicate to novices the broad principles on which show preparation should be based.

DARWEN

The revived Darwen agricultural show was held on Saturday, June 7th. The pigeons were shown in excellent condition. Many fanciers were present and all were glad to see Edgar P. Morton arrive with his stock of pigeons and bantams. The judges, J. Greenhalgh, of Chorley (Fancy) and J. Lord, of Ormskirk (Racers), enjoyed their task of sorting out the winners. The cards were confined to 1st, 2nd and 3rd owing to paper shortage. Messrs. S. and J. W. McLachlan's blue English Owl was awarded cup for best pigeon in show.—W.T.

Mr. W. Taylor's Classes

DRAGON, C. OR H.: 1 Empon; 2, 3 Paterson. MODENA C.: 1, 2 Morton; 3 Heald. HEN: 1 Gaskell; 2, 3 Morton. GEN. HOMER, C. OR H.: 1, 2, 3 McLachlan. SHOW HOMER, C. OR H.: 1 Empon; 2 Spence; 3 Gaskell. ORIENTAL FRILL, C. OR H.: 1 McLachlan; 2 Empon; 3 Miller. L.F. TUMBLER, C. OR H.: 1, 2, 3 Spink. S.F.: 1, 3 Britcliffe; 2 Mowbray. FLYING TIPPLER, C. OR H.: 1 Wood; 2 Shortridge and Son; 3 Whiteman. A.O.V. C. OR H.: 1 and cup, McLachlan; 2 Spence; 3 Hanson.

RACING HOMERS.—B. OR B. CHEQ. C.: 1 Turner; 2 Owen; 3 Hanson. HEN: 1 Owen; 2 Stark; 3 Gregory. PIED C.: 1 Cooper and Son; 2 Turner; 3 Stark. HEN: 1 Hanson; 2 Plant; 3 Owen. RED CHEQ. OR R.C. PIED C.: 1 Turner; 2 Nicholson; 3 Owen. HEN: 1 Stark; 2 Watson; 3 Stephenson. BLUE MEALY B.P. OR M.P. C.: 1 Owen; 2 Hanson; 3 Turner. HEN: 1 Owen; 2 Hanson; 3 Askew. 25 SELLING, C.: 1 Turner; 2 Stark; 3 Watson. HEN: 1 Watson; 2 Turner; 3 Morrison. LOCAL CLASSES.—Racing Homer C.: 1 Bradshaw and Wilkinson; 2 Irving. Hen: 1 and cup, Bradshaw and Wilkinson; 2 Irving.—W.M. TAYLOR.

OBITUARY

MRS. H. BUSHELL

IT is with profound regret I have to announce the death of Mrs. H. Bushell, of Norwich, the wife of that great Cropper fancier, Herbert Bushell, who is so well known throughout the country by so many pigeon fanciers. She passed away on June 9th very suddenly. She had been ill for a few days, but was stated to be making good progress. What Herbert will do without Mrs. Bushell is hard to tell as they were such a grand pigeon pair, and had been together for a great number of years.

I am sure all fanciers will join me in expressing deepest sympathy to Herbert Bushell and family in their great loss.

C. A. BOYES

ANOTHER one-time Cropper fancier, C. A. Boyes, Norwich, has passed away. He kept Croppers, Tumblers, Balbs and Self Tumblers for a number of years. He exhibited his birds mostly in the Eastern Counties, but always attended the Dairy show and the Palace. He lived to a ripe old age, and was in his 80th year. Our sympathy and condolences go out to his sorrowing relations.

F. A. SPARROW.

KENSINGTON KITTEN SHOW

SCHEDULES are now out for the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club (Incorp.) show on July 10th at the Parish Hall, Vicarage Gate, Kensington, W.8. The hall is on Kensington Church Street, and is a five minutes' walk from the underground station. The club, since the amalgamation, has been the centre of a great deal of interest. To date there are 78 members and there are likely to be many more before the closing of entries on June 23rd.

It is very gratifying to hear that there should be a fair number of entries in the short-hair classes, and if everybody who has signified his intention of so showing, does so, Mr. Yeates should be kept busy. I have heard of Abyssinians, Blue Foreign and Manx kittens all ready to make their bow.

We are making a feature in this show of household pets and shop cats, which will have a room to themselves, and from the cats I have seen which will be entered in these classes there are some very fine short-hairs about. Unfortunately all of them have been neutered, but I am hoping that the show will make many more people cat conscious, and that the Fancy will welcome some more breeders, when the "one cat owner" sees what a cat show is really like.

I think that breeders of short-hairs should keep more to type. There seems to be a tendency to lose the cobby body, and the round head and small ears in the British cats, and I am wondering if, with the great popularity of the Siamese, that some of the short-hairs to-day are the result of mis-mating. I have been very encouraged by letters I have received from breeders who are wanting to take up short-hairs, and there is great hopes for a revival in the future of this fascinating variety.

It is good news to hear that the Abyssinian Club has revived, and we all wish it the best of luck, and hope that the kittens will stay in this country and not be exported until the breed is well on its feet again.

Another variety which seems to be looking up is the Blue Foreign. Mrs. Parker, Kingston, who has lately come into the Fancy, is specialising in them and is tackling the breeding of her kittens in a scientific way, and it is very interesting to watch her results. The Rev. Basil Rees with his Sylvan strain of British Blues, I know, has a long waiting list for kittens, and if Sylvan Joey's progeny follow in father's footsteps things should be looking up in this variety.

Manx too are in demand, so now it is up to some enterprising breeder to concentrate on the tabby varieties and the fascinating Torties, then we really should be all set for a revival.

I went to a most enjoyable party at Mrs. Newton's on Thursday, where we all enjoyed ourselves very much. Long-hair, short-hair and Siamese breeders were all together, and the one topic was cats.

It was a great pleasure to see Mrs. Campbell Fraser there looking herself again after her serious illness, and to hear of the Royal garden party where she presented Miss Fraser to Their Majesties. She is a truly grand old lady.

Miss Wrightson one of the short-hair enthusiasts, came all the way from Hertfordshire, and I was interested to hear that her winning male, Stanton Red Elf had been in demand at stud.

Miss Beckett had good news of Amigo Winston, the black and white Manx she gave a home to when he left the National show, and who, for her sake, will win at this year's shows.

KIT WILSON.

NOTTS. JUDGES

The judges at the Notts, and Derby Cat Club show in January will be Mrs. Cattermole, Mr. Martin, Miss Rodda, Miss Campbell-Fraser, Mrs. McLeod, Mr. Tomlinson, Mrs. Thompson and Miss Kit Wilson. Miss K. Yorke will act as referee.

IN BRIEF

Mr. H. Gullick, secretary of the Leicester-shire Cavy Club, is shortly to go in Leicester Infirmary to have an operation on his heart, and Mr. C. Thompson, Verdon Caviary, Newbold, Verdon, Leicester, is secretary pro tem. Messrs. Smith and Townsend will judge at Wakefield on Oct. 11th. Mr. R. Coddish will judge caviae at Yeaton on June 21st in place of Mr. Musgrave Sharp.

Dorking show, which was to have been held on July 19th, has been brought forward to July 5th.

Messrs. Exelby and Dent will judge at Northallerton show on July 26th, which is being held in conjunction with Northallerton Gymkhana.

Pertshire Agricultural show will be held on Aug. 2nd.