

CAVY CORNER - - - Conducted by C. V. B. Taylor

Information Wanted About Chocolate Abyssinians

A **SUFFOLK** fancier writes as follows: "Last year I mated a white Abyssinian boar (except that he had a light brown patch on his nose) with a Tortoise-and-White and a Self Red Abyssinian sow, and the resultant litters were a queer mixture of colours. I got Golden Agoutis, Red and Whites, and Black and Whites.

"I bred from those that were rosetted, as there were also three smooths in the litters, but they produced very soft-coated Abyssinians, so I got rid of most of them.

"I kept one sow, as she was well rosetted and harsh in coat and a dark brindle in colour, and mated her to a brindle boar, and she has now five youngsters nearly a month old, consisting of two smooth blacks, one red Abyssinian, and a pair of Chocolates. Unfortunately the young Chocolate sow is smooth coated.

"I should much like to breed Chocolate Abyssinians as I have never seen any rosetted cavies at shows of this colour. Will it be possible to use this young smooth Chocolate sow, or is it advisable not to breed from smooth-coated Abyssinian bred cavies?"

I have replied by post to this fancier, but thought the above might prove of interest to other readers.

I have at various times in the past used an Abyssinian smooth sow, and the litters have contained some very typical all-round Abyssinians. But I have always made a point of mating to an Abyssinian boar that has excelled both in rosettes and harshness of coat. I would never for one moment think of using a smooth-coated Abyssinian bred boar for further Abyssinian breeding, and have only used a smooth sow when I have been eager to get a particular colour field. At the present time we have Abyssinians, and good ones too, in such a variety of colours that it would be a waste of time to experiment with any smooth-coated variety for colour.

By a coincidence, this week, a Hampshire fancier sends me the following letter on the crossing of cavies.

"I have been breeding cavies for research purposes for several years now, and among my stock I have a red Dutch sow with a good saddle and stops, but heavy head markings.

"As I was breeding for wasters only, I mated her to a white boar with a ginger-coloured cheek only. I was surprised when the litter of four arrived, for it consisted of a Self Red sow, two red and white boars (marked almost like a zebra crossing!) and one really decently marked Red Dutch boar, good head and saddle and two stops, although they are uneven in length. I have decided to keep this young boar as he is a very rich red colour and his cheek markings are excellent in spite of a very small white speck on one ear. When he is a bit older I shall cross him with his mother in the hopes that I shall, in time, get together a stud of red Dutch."

My observations on this are that much will depend on how the white boar with the ginger cheek only has been bred. He may have been bred from Dutch, but he may be of Tortoise and White origin, as he could not be classed as a pure self. If he is not Dutch bred, then my correspondent must not build his hopes too high on getting a good percentage of typical Dutch-marked pigs for a few generations, for I am convinced he will come across a few set-backs and disappointments, and most likely will have some surprises during his breeding operations. However, I wish him the best of luck and shall be glad to hear of his progress, but personally I would suggest that a culetter and better way of building up a stud would be to start with pure-bred foundation stock from a reliable breeder, although he will certainly get some fun by experimenting in the way he suggests.

Cavy queries are welcomed, but please don't forget that stamp if a reply by post is requested.—C. V. B. TAYLOR.

CAVIES IN AMERICA

By Jack Ball

THE San Gabriel Cavy Breeders' Association, in California, had a big Christmas party and cavy show. A hall was rented and each member brought some articles of food. An inter-club cavy show was held. There were classes for the best cavy of each caviary, and a class for the worst cavy of each caviary. A cavy buyer was on hand at the show and the worst cavies were sold to the buyer. The money from these sales helped to pay for the expenses of renting the hall. Later, a dinner was held, and presents were exchanged among the members. All the members who attended the party will long remember it.

In my last article of "Cavies in America," I told readers that we Americans are a bit impatient and lazy when it comes to breeding cavies. But, with the way things are

in America to-day, what can one expect? We have cars that do tremendous speeds, jet planes, atomic bombs, and so on. Everywhere one finds people rushing to get somewhere. I often wonder why people rush so much.

We American cavy fanciers are usually pretty nice fellows and we really enjoy our cavies. When we get together we talk and talk about our cavies. And never seem to be able to talk enough about them. We enjoy the competition offered at the shows. Large crowds of people turn out to view the cavies wherever cavy shows are held. There is a spirit of competition in every cavy fancier's heart.

As the winners of each class are chosen, the crowds and the fanciers become more and more tense and excited. Every person has a favourite and wants that certain cavy to be judged best in its class and may be even best cavy in show. The judges eliminate cavy after cavy. Then, there comes the tense moment when only two cavies remain. One of them is to become the best in show cavy. The judge has a big decision to make, and he will make it carefully. Finally, the big moment arrives and one of the two cavies is judged best cavy in show and the owner is very happy indeed. The other fanciers grin and shake hands with the owner of the best cavy. Every cavy fancier, whether he has won or lost, is a good sport, and promises to himself that next year his cavy will be judged best in show.

Ah, cavies! Where can one find so much joy and achievement for such little trouble, as the cavy affords?

AROUND THE CAVY CLUBS

ABYSSINIAN CAVY CLUB

VENUES are required for the Abyssinian Cavy Club's young stock and adult stock shows. I should be glad if members would try to interest their local societies, particularly in the Midlands and South, to send along their terms for running these shows.

Arrangements are well in hand for the spring show at Spenborough on April 5th. Eleven classes will be staged and Mr. E. Beverley will judge. There will be a challenge certificate for best Abyssinian, and 5/- for best reserve in straight classes.

A further donation of 10/- to the show guarantee fund has been received from Mr. R. Farmer.

I had hoped that the suggestion from the annual general meeting "that judges be asked to pay more attention to flat backs" would have brought forward some comment from our members, but no, we all sit tight, thinking some other person will do it, and then complain about the lack of cavy news in the paper.

Just in the hope that someone will rise to the bait, I will stick my neck out and say that I think that flat backs and bad shape (type), go together. Breeders are all so busy putting rosettes in the right places, and feeling sure that if rosettes are right, ridges must be, that they forget shape. I feel sure that if we keep our Abyssinians cobby, and short in back, we shall be on the way to putting the back ridge right.

Don't mistake me when I say "cobby and short backed." I do not mean small. We want a hefty pig, almost as deep through the shoulder as he is long. This may be an exaggeration, but readers will know what I'm getting at.

Look at the smooth Sells. Not all of them by any means, but the best and you are getting nearer.

Look at a good shire horse, a great hefty animal, really big, but by no means long.

No, I think if we watch shape for a season or two we shall reap the benefit. Now, pick up your bricks and throw, or better still your pens and write!

Points Shows List

- April 5th, Spenborough (challenge certificate).
- May 17th, Otley (rosette).
- June 5th, Chester (rosette).—J. Pegler, 17, Stansfield Road, Fallsworth, Manchester.

YORKSHIRE CAVY CLUB

THE Yorkshire Cavy Club will hold its young stock show at Spenborough, Cleckheaton, on April 5th, when it will entertain the Abyssinian Cavy Club's spring show. Judges for the Yorkshire Cavy Club will be:—Sells, Mr. C. J. Wilson; Agoutis and marked varieties, Mr. J. Jenkinson; Y.C.C. members' classes, Mr. H. Craven; and Abyssinian C.C. classes, Mr. E. Beverley.—C. Henderson, hon. sec. pro tem., 16, George Street, Cleckheaton.

NATIONAL MOUSE CLUB NOTES AND NEWS

By C. H. Johnson

Hon. Secretary, Highfield, Driffeld.

Mouse Show Calendar
March 22nd: Driffeld.
April 5th: Fallsworth.

I APOLOGISE to members for any seeming neglect in respect of matters sent to me for publication. As is known, the space at our disposal in **FUR AND FEATHER** is limited and I have, of course, to deal first with what I consider of most importance. Members can, however, rest assured that anything sent to me for publication, or considered of sufficient interest will in due course be published. This week, I would deal with a variety of matters which, for reasons herewith indicated, have had to be left over.

Three championship certificates have been awarded since the beginning of the year. They are:

Mr. C. Simpkins of Shipley for his Self Black doe, Belmont Princess, for wins at Calder Valley (4), also B.I.S., and at Leeds, under Judges Beckett, Ward, Johnson and Edmondson. Charlie sold a lot of stock last year, in spite of which he is still able to retain his position as our premier specialist in Self Blacks.

Mr. N. Gregory for his Dutch buck, Four-laws Lucky Boy, for wins at Calder Valley (2), Airedale (5), and B.I.S., under Judges, Ward, Fitzwater, Coles and Patchett. I have an idea that Mr. Gregory has been waiting a long time for this championship certificate, and all honour is due to him.

Dominator of Hollins, a Champagne doe, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marriott, has qualified for its fifth championship certificate for wins at Alfreton, Airedale (3) and Shildon, under Judges, Skinner, Fitzwater, Coles and Simpkins. The mouse has also obtained four firsts towards its sixth championship, which, as Mr. Marriott points out, must be something of a record. How Mr. Marriott has kept this mouse in condition for so long, I do not know.

I have not as yet had time to get-out the results of the Cash Points Competition to date, but here is the result up to and including Airedale Show on Feb. 9th: C. H. Johnson 52; A. Day 49; T. Fitzwater 45; C. and R. Lockwood 44; E. Higgs 36; N. Gregory 34; R. Easley 26; Mr. and Mrs. Marriott 24; J. Watts 23; Ashley and Kenyon 22; G. Lumb 20; S. Dobson 19; A. Whitworth 15; J. Hardman 14; O. Cole and Son 13; C. Simpkins 13; R. W. Moore 12; Steele 12; S. Rawnsley 10; T. Mellor 9; C. Beckett 8; Coles and Heywood 8; J. Hustler 8; E. Longbottom 8; T. Marsden Junr. 8; L. Walker 8; W. J. Morgan 7; J. Tunnichiffe 7; J. K. Palin 6.

As the result of a spurt on the part of Mr. A. Day, Mr. T. Fitzwater and myself, Messrs. C. and R. Lockwood lost the lead obtained at Bradford. Mr. Fitzwater had a birthday at Alfreton and picked up no less than 30 points. Mr. E. Higgs also did well with 23 points. This, of course, was not unexpected, for local mice always have a pull in condition on their cousins that have to travel by rail; once more emphasising the importance of condition. At Airedale, Mr. N. Gregory had his birthday and secured 32 points. It was, the aforementioned wins that enabled Mr. Gregory to claim a championship. Mr. A. Day also did well with 22 points.

By virtue of the rule whereby a judge scores a proportion of the points gained at previous shows, Mr. T. Fitzwater kept well up the table. I would at this point, clarify the rule appertaining to judges, for it was omitted in the recent announcement with regard to the competition. In order that a judge may fulfil a judging engagement without affecting his position in the competition, he is awarded a proportion on average of the points gained at previous shows. Thus, if a judge at, say, the sixth show has an aggregate total of 30 points, he will, for the event in question, be awarded six points, or in other words, a division of 30 by five. To explain further, the judge at the previous five shows has averaged six points, and this, therefore, is the amount credited to him for the current event, for it is assumed that his average would have been maintained. When the rule was inaugurated, it was felt that, without some arrangement of this kind, judges, especially those "in the running," might have been inclined to dodge a judging engagement. The rule is fair and equitable, and, according to Mr. Percy Ashley, in keeping with what has been done in Competitions of a similar character. I have gone to some pains to explain the rule so that no misunderstanding will ensue.

In a subsequent issue of **FUR AND FEATHER**, I shall publish the result of the Competition including N.E.M.C. Show, Feb. 23rd and Calder Valley, March 1st. According to reports I have received, we can expect some changes in position, for Mr. and Mrs. Marriott did well at Shildon (N.E.M.C.) and Messrs. C. and R. Lockwood did well at Calder Valley; obtaining at the respective shows, best mouse.

It is with regret that I have to record the resignation of Mr. C. Simpkins from the secretaryship of the Airedale Mouse

Club. Mr. Simpkins has held the reins of secretary for many years and made an exceedingly good job of it. We all admired his painstaking and thorough manner, his cheery smile and his words of welcome. Charlie, as secretary, will be sadly missed, but I have not the slightest doubt that his interest in the affairs of the Airedale Mouse Club will be as strong as ever. Mr. A. Day of Keighley has stepped into the breach, and I call upon the Airedale members to rally round him and extend the utmost help and co-operation. Thanks a lot, Charlie, for what you have done, and you, Arthur, for what you are about to do.

Readers will recollect the fund which was started last year for Old Age Pensioners who were unable to keep up their N.M.C. subscriptions. I have a sum in hand of £1 17s. 6d. Will any members who know of deserving cases please let me know?

I had a letter from Mr. Walter Coles the other day to say that arrangements for the Summer Cup Show, at Barnley on July 19th, are making satisfactory progress. There will be no less than 40 classes. Further announcement later.

I am happy to say that the N.M.C. "Fill the Gap" Show I proposed to hold at Driffeld on March 22nd is now fixed up and I am looking forward to a deluge of entries. As I said before, this is a show arranged by the N.M.C. for your benefit. It is, therefore, YOUR show, and up to you to make it a complete success. Remember that, if we make a profit, it will all come back to you in one form or another. See the Mouse Column of last week's "Fur and Feather" for preliminary particulars. Specially note that entries must be sent to me at Highfield, Driffeld and that the closing date is March 17th. It is, therefore, necessary to post entries this weekend. Thanks a lot, fanciers.

WAR-TIME SHOWS

FOLLOWING some correspondence concerning the late war-time shows, I would say yes, it is true that when the "President's" shows ended I immediately started a series of shows known as "N.M.C." shows. These shows were similar to the "President's" shows, and continued for the remainder of the war and for some time afterwards, ending only when a majority of members expressed a view that the type of show was no longer needed.

Also I feel I ought to say that the "N.M.C." shows, too, were a financial success to the benefit of the N.M.C.! They, too, served a useful purpose and helped to keep the mouse flag flying.—A. C. JUDE.

SOWERBY BRIDGE

Calder Valley Mouse Show

Calder Valley Mouse Club held its show at Sowerby Bridge on March 1st. A total entry of 515 was a splendid effort for 30 classes. There was an excellent attendance from all parts with a good contingent from over the "border," Lancashire. I had to pass a few in the eight weeks classes as they were too developed.—P.A.

Mr. P. Ashley's Classes

BLACK.—TAN, 12: 1 Watts, special best Tan, good top, splendid depth of tan, only fault feet; 2 Moore, good but lost size and head; 3 Dobson, good all round as first two but thin in coat on belly; r Day. **CHOC. OR TAN.**—9: 1 Easley, easy win, only fault feet; 2 Longbottom, not as good either top or tan; 3 Day, falls tail, head and ears; r Longbottom. **BLACK OR CHOC. TAN.** 8 WKS., 16: 1 Day, choc., good tan and top, little pale in undercoat; 2 Moore, black, not as good tan, falls ears; 3 r Easley, black, close up, not as good feet. **A.O.V. TAN.** 6: 1 r Johnson, cham., splendid tan, good tail and head, little thin belly coat, shade on dark side; 2 Day, cham., on dark side, falls tan round vent; 3 Simpkins, not as good head and top, bit rough. 8 WKS., 8: 1, 2 Bainton, 1st best Tan and top; 2 loses tan; 3 Simpkins, too dark top; r Easley, Not a great class. **CHALL.** 22: 1 Watts; 2 Moore; 3 Debon; r Longbottom. The first, second and third were all placed that way in adult black and tan classes. They stood out from the other colours. **DUTCH.**—15: splendid class; 1 Gregory, good cheeks, saddle and cut, slight dip between saddle and cut, my nomination for best in show, lost on arbitration, won cup class; 2 Hampson, close, not as good saddle, and drags one cheek; 3 Dobson, good one, saddle little far back; r Yeaton, 8 WKS., 14: 1 Mellor, choc., good all round only for cheeks running under jaws, only just got through on age; 2 Hardman, good black baby, really too young to exhibit, will beat winner when ready; 3 Gregory, black, loses stops; r Steel. **EVEN, BROKEN OR VAR.**—12: 1 Moore, 6-spot black broken, only 6 but well placed, clean solid spots; 2 Cole and Son, var., splashed not brindled, on the

(Continued on page 180)

Breed of the Week

AFRICAN OWLS

By R. B. FAIR

IN inviting me to send him a few comments on the African Owl, the Editor has suggested that I might say something about the way I interpret the standard of the ideal African.

Well, I don't suppose my views differ to any material extent from those held by other breeders and exhibitors, and I really can find little to add to the very clear interpretation made by Mr. Watmough, which appears on page nine of the club's year book.

Those who were responsible for drawing up the club standard and allocating the number of points to each property were, to my mind, very lucid in their mode of expression and have left little, if any, margin for misunderstanding.

I would like, however, to refer briefly to the fact that, whereas one often hears it said that the African is essentially a small pigeon, the same commentators fail to add that the African is essentially a round skulled pigeon, with a short thick beak! A reference to the standard will bear this out, as does our beautiful drawing of the club's ideal.

In my opinion, where some judges go wrong is that once they find a bird possessing a small body and great width immediately behind the wattle, they look for little else. Too often, such birds have no sharp rise from off the wattle and are almost flat above the eye, and lack fullness of cheeks below the beak line.

Looked at "face on," they present a frog-like appearance, and by no stretch of imagination do they possess "a bold and regular arch from front and side view," as the standard demands.

Likewise, a bird with a thin or "shelly" beak should be sharply penalised when competing against others blessed with one of the short and thick type.

However, it's a case of "other men, other minds." That veteran authority on the African, Mr. Alf Robinson, said in a letter to me recently, "If the cards were not shuffled about a bit there would not be many shows." Fanciers soon tire of entering birds that never touch the money.

The entry of 163 birds at the club show on

Dec. 1st must be considered a great achievement, and surely provides evidence that the African is again on the upgrade. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to look up the records of bygone days and recall the many happy incidents associated with the shows that are long since past. It was, therefore, with much interest that I discovered how close we had come in 1951 to the entry of the last pre-war club show, held at Alexandra Palace in November, 1938. On that occasion there were 173 entries in the 19 classes standing (two were cancelled), and at our recent event we had 163 entries in 21 classes.

When one considers our present-day difficulties—the scarcity and high cost of corn, heavy transit charges, etc.—I think there are solid grounds for satisfaction, but much remains to be accomplished in all the colours other than the ever-popular dun. The latter colour accounted for rather over 25 per cent. of the total entry at the recent club show, whereas whites led the field for numbers in 1938.

Going back still further, we find that so numerous were whites and blacks that both these colours were provided with yearling as well as adult and young classes, and the premier specials almost invariably went to a white or a black. What has happened before may occur again and there is no reason why the duns should be perpetually "top dogs."

There are few varieties offering the same opportunities for development to the enterprising fancier as exist in African Owls today.

I cannot conclude these few observations without referring to the high honour achieved by our patron, Mr. M. C. J. Sparrow, in winning the medal for the best young pigeon at the recent Dairy show with his 1951 dun cock—a bird of great merit and thoroughly deserving the many cards which decorated his pen. Coming so soon after the award of the Jones Trophy for best adult pigeon, to one of my own African exhibits, it is clear evidence that our variety is right in the front rank of high-class fancy pigeons.

PIGEON POST

WHODUNIT?

CAN any of your readers offer a solution and a remedy? Six weeks ago three small doves were killed in a loft 24ft. x 12ft. (wire netting 3in.). They were so completely eaten that only a very few feathers were left. The heads were gone; and in fact all that remained were the feet and the breastbone, which was picked so clean as to look transparent. At the back of this loft there are 3ft. x 6ft. breeding compartments with 3in. wire. Three days after the first three were killed, two more met the same fate.

I removed all the doves except two pairs, which I put in a 6ft. pen. While I was ill in bed, the smallest pair of these doves was killed and eaten and only a few feathers left. The other pair—Burmese—were perhaps double the size and were not interfered with, nor were pigeons in the same loft.

In another loft, separate and away from where the doves were killed, I had 12 pairs of Muffed Tumblers on eggs; these were due to hatch. Recently I found half an egg-shell, and I thought some had hatched. I had a careful look and found every egg in every nest had been eaten, and in one night. All that remained was eggshell in small pieces, and it could be plainly seen that these eggs had contained young birds due to hatch. The loft is ratproof, with 3in. mesh wire in front. In 63 years such a thing has never happened to me before.

I now put a cat in each night. I have three cats and they will sit beside pigeons on the nest and never touch them or the doves, but should a sparrow get in then it is quite a different story. In a case like this, one just doesn't know what to do as a prevention and a cure. My own idea—stoat or weasel.

A. G. COWLEY.

THE DAYS OF £100 PIGEONS

I READ with interest Mr. J. Rose's letter on the English Owl, "Why so few recruits?"

It appears from what he writes, the English Owls do not require a stud of feeders. I agree. You can hand-rear them from birth to maturity if you are enthusiastic enough.

In the days of Mr. Watmough, senior, Mr. Forrest, Sir Prince Smith, and in Turbits such successful breeders as Lobb, Widger and Branham, there were not the diversions from the pigeon fancy there are to-day. You must have pigeons in your blood today to keep them at the expense of corn—65/- cwt. A Dairy winner rarely changes hands now over £20. In the old days, when corn of the best quality cost 10/- cwt., birds were sold and claimed at shows for £100.

Mr. Branham told me he built a row of

houses in Barnstaple on the profits of his Turbits. It is called "Turbit Avenue" today.

Determination is what is wanted, and these varieties would again come back.—C. TRUSCOTT.

IDEAL EXHIBITION HOMER

AS a breeder of Exhibition Homers—probably one of the oldest—long before the breed was called "Exhibition Homer," I think it would be to the general good of the breed if this matter of an ideal could be agreed on, and so gather all breeders into one fold.

There is, not the slightest doubt that the so-called modern type wins most of the highest honours. I prefer this type, and I don't like to think I've been breeding backwards for forty or more years. I do at least claim to have bred a few of the modern type, which have more than held their own in the show pen.

Our friend, R. Allan, says there is only one ideal, or standard, and that is the one followed by the most successful breeders. Granted, the most successful ones are those breeding the modern type—see this last season's reports of the classics and other shows. Is this the one we mean?

Many years ago there was much correspondence on this matter of ideals, there were at that time three ideals, but little progress was made in reaching a solution. I think the time is now more favourable.

Let us hear from other breeders, and if they are interested I am prepared to give them my views on why I prefer the modern type.

T. H. WILLIAMS.

PIGMY POUTERS

I THINK Mr. Hale and I are at cross purposes. The standard of the Pigmy Pouter is all right; it emphasizes globe and action in two long paragraphs. These two points have been sadly neglected in the past, and I wish to make the point that the globe and action are just as important as any other—more so at the present time.

It used to be an easy matter to breed crops—much easier than slim, high-shouldered, fine-bone, tippy birds, so the latter points were concentrated on, until, after a time, it was found that the globe was nearly lost, and it has not been so easy to bring it back again.

I am glad to say that this was realised in time, and efforts are gradually bringing the globe back, so that the present Pigmy Pouter is again becoming a bird as represented by the standard.

After all, a pigeon that can't blow a crop may be a Pigmy, but is certainly not a Pouter.

H. Y. MANSFIELD.

PIGEON CLUB NEWS

SURREY COLUMBARIAN SOCIETY

THE monthly meeting and show of the Surrey Columbarian Society was held on March 5th at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Guildford, when the president, Mr. Arthur Allum, presided, supported by vice-presidents W. B. McCombe and John L. Sears and 30 members.

There were 60 entries penned which were judged by Mr. Allum, Mr. McCombe and Mr. A. Anscombe. Strongest sections were Archangels and Nuns.

The next meeting and show will be held on April 2nd—all varieties.

Results at the show were: **ARCHANGELS**.—C: 1, 3, spl. Nicholas; 2 Pope; r Pincock. **HEN**: 1, 2, 3, spl. Harvey; r Pope. **NUN**.—C: 1, spl. Pope; 2, 3 Fitness; r Cobbett. **HEN**: 1, spl. Pope; 2 Cobbett; 3 Fitness; r Nicholas. **A.O.V. FANCY**.—1, 2, 3, spl. Luck; r Harvey. **RACING HOMER**.—C: 1, 2, spl. Cook and Son; 3, r Smith. **HEN**: 1, 2, spl. Cook and Son; 3, r Smith. **100 MILES**: 1 Cook and Son; 2 Herbert; 3 Stamp. **A.V. JUVENILE**: 1, 2, 3 Purdie; r Bailey.—**CHARLES H. POPE**, hon. secretary and treasurer.

GENUINE HOMER CLUB

THE A.G.M. of the Genuine Homer Club was held on March 1st at the Grosvenor Hotel, Manchester. The president, Mr. S. McLachlan, presided. There was only a moderate attendance. A letter of apology for non-attendance was read from Mr. Rackstraw. The hon. secretary gave his annual report and financial statement, and reported a better year.

Election of officers: Mr. E. A. Brooksbank, hon. sec. and treasurer; Mr. E. Pearson, president; Mr. W. Taylor, vice-president; 1952 N.P.A. representative, Mr. W. J. Empson.

Correspondence: The action taken by the secretary in regard to all the letters read was unanimously approved.

It was decided that the club would give support and guarantee classes at the Dairy, Birmingham and Bradford, and to offer the usual specials at Atrincham and Bingley. The club judges would officiate at these shows.

The hon. secretary was requested to communicate with other secretaries to try to arrange terms for holding the club show this year, and it was left to Mr. Brooksbank to make the best arrangements he could.

New members: J. G. Wolstenholme, Filey; A. Gilbertson, Bingley; and P. Leah, Todmorden.

Votes of thanks were extended to the retiring president, Mr. S. McLachlan, and to the hon. secretary for work carried out during the past year.

EDGAR A. BROOKSBANK, hon. sec.

J. WOODHEAD

BUYS THE CLEEBERG TURBITS

WE hear that the entire stud of Turbits owned by the late Charles Cleeburg has passed into the hands of Mr. John Woodhead, of Thongbridge, Huddersfield, thus adding yet another string to this fancier's huge collection of Fancy breeds, Turbits seem at long last, to be looking up a bit, and a broader interest developing in this grand old variety. Recent recruits include: Mr. A. Anderson, of Moffat, and Mr. D. G. McLaren, of Longniddry, East Lothian. It is also reported that Mr. E. Bottomley is returning in force to his old love, so entries at the 1952 shows should be on the upgrade.

COOINGS

FROM Mr. R. P. Van der Mark, of Holland, we have received some information concerning the silhouette of a pigeon under the heading "Behind the Iron Curtain," in our issue of January 10th. He writes:—

"You wondered what the vignette which was used by me actually meant. I chose the vignette for reasons of purely artistic appreciation. I recently used it on the catalogue of the 18th National Show of Pigeons and Rabbits at Amersfoort. It also appears on the writing paper and envelopes of the Fancy Pigeon Club of Amersfoort. It is used only as a token of the pigeon fancy in general, and has nothing at all to do with any politics!"

We are pleased to note from the Middlesex Columbarian Society's balance sheet that this old society is in a healthy position. It has a cash balance of £164 4s. 3d., and total assets of £225 12s. 11d. The young stock show of 1951 was a success, and all expenses in connection with it have been cleared. The club's patron is Mr. A. E. Wells, its president Mr. Newton R. Steel, hon. treasurer Mr. R. Azevedo, and hon. secretary Mr. W. S. Preston, 182, The Ridgeway North Harrow, Middlesex.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS

MR. J. C. Hill (Hill and Payne), of Stourbridge, will judge pigeons at Bath and West, Nottingham, May 28th; and at the Royal Welsh, Caernarvon, July 25th.

Pigeons will be catered for at the Faversham annual show, on Nov. 15th.

NAT. MOUSE CLUB NOTES

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right track; 3 Cole, var., long way behind, too much like a brindle, not splashy; r Keers. 8 WKS., 8: 1 Cole and Sons, repeat of the adult; 2 only better under, here was a real attempt to be splashed underneath as well as the top; 2 Whitworth, 7-spot black broken; 3 Hardman, var., not as well splashed as winner; r no name. **MARKED CHALL.**, 22: 1 Gregory; 2 Moore; 3 Cole; r Dobson.—**PERCY ASHLEY**, Judge.

Mr. J. Tunncliffe's Classes

CIN., AGOUTI, SILVER-GRAY.—AD. 18: 1 Lockwood, good in every detail, went on to win best in show, a cin. doe with sparkle, credit to breeder; 2 Sowerby, Agouti doe, up against it here, good eye and condition; 3 Kellett, sil.-Grey doe, dark shade, well ticked; r J. Watts. 8 WKS., 16: 1 Higgs, cin. doe, lovely type, ex. cond.; 2 Cooper, Agouti doe, falls very slightly under to winner; 3, r Lockwood, both cins., close but 3rd richer; Pen 374 good bright Agouti but had touch of scours or would have scored. **A.O.V.**, 14: 1 Whitworth, Chin, black, good top and best under, merits win; 2 Lumb, sable doe, dark and shading to orange; 3 Carr, Black Fox buck, good, rather nervy; r Johnson; Pens 384 and 389 absent. 8 WKS., 12: 1 Marsden, Chin, buck, good coat for youngster and good under, won juv. class; 2 Kay, Fox buck, good type, only failed under to winner; 3 r Forbes, two lovely Sables, rich shade, one slight nose spot. **A.O.V. CHALL.**, 26: 1 Lockwood; 2 Sanderson; 3 Kellett; r Watts. **JUV.**, 23: Well done Juv., some real good stuff here and took some sorting out; 1 Marsden, Chin, buck, won own class, congrats.; 2 Mitchell, Cham, doe, good type and in ex. condition; 3 Kay, Fox doe, stood out for type and cond.; r Harris. **DOE**, 18: 1 Robinson and Hesketh, Cham., lovely type, ears and tail excellent, a bit lighter would suit; 2 Patchett, P.E.W., good colour, lost on type; 3 Johnson; r Simpkins. **STUD BUCK**, 24: 1 Moore; 2 Johnson; 3 Gregory; r Watts. **GRAND CHALL.**, 40: 1 Lockwood; 2 Gregory; 3 Longbottom; r Simpkins. 8 WKS., 1: Fletcher; 2 Walker; 3 Simpkins; r Mellor. **CUP CLASS**: N. Gregory. **BEST IN SHOW**: G and E. Lockwood, also best. **A.O.V. BEST SELF**: E. Longbottom. **BEST TAN**: J. Watts. **BEST MARKED**: N. Gregory. **BEST JUV.**: T. D. Marsden. A good show in every way. Thanks to my stewards, Mr. F. Bottomley and Mr. G. Greenwood, and the man who works so hard for the C.V.M.C. and the mouse fancy in general, our secretary, J. Wormald, and helpers.—**JACK TUNNICLIFFE**.

Mr. L. Marriott's Classes

This was my first visit to Sowerby Bridge to be one of the judges for the show, and I received a very warm welcome from the secretary, J. Wormald and his committee. There was some good quality stock on view. Jack had everything ready for an early start and the management was of the usual high standard the Fancy expects and, in this case gets, at every show run by this Society. I took the Self classes and had two very efficient stewards in Messrs. Simpkins and Lumb.

WHITE.—15: 1, 2 Patchett, these two were well away for purity of colour, with good size and type; 3 Downs, good size and type, beaten purity of colour; r Lockwood; good class. 8 WKS., 11: 1 Fletcher, a little gem, genuine youngster, best colour, lovely type, went on to win young challenge self and young grand challenge under all three judges; 2, 3 Lockwood, both good, lovely type, beaten colour; r Johnson. **BLACK OR BLUE**.—14: 1 Simpkins, black, lovely colour and feet, might be larger; 2 Johnson, black, equal except depth of colour; 3 Harris, black, good colour and feet, falls type; r Harrison. 8 WKS., 11: 1 Johnson, black, good colour and feet, wins; 2 Simpkins, black, equal to the winner, beaten development; 3, r Day, black, beaten finish. **CHAMPAGNE OR FAWN**.—15: 1, Sp. best Self, Longbottom, champagne, lovely shade of colour, my nomination for best mouse, might be a shade better in condition, this was a good win for the Calder Valley President; 2 Robinson and Hesketh, better finish than the winner, shade too dark for me, looks like the Bradford 2nd; 3 Marsden, good, falls a little in type and shade too dark in colour, this was a good class. 8 WKS., 10: 1 Walker, very good cham., lovely type, still a shade too dark for me, but wins easily in this company; 2 A. Day, cham., beaten colour, still good; 3 Downs, cham., too dark in colour; r Watts. **A.O.C. SELF AD.**, 14: Six Creams in this class; 1 Tindle, this was a real cream and not a dirty looking white, wonderful size and type; 2 Johnson, good self silver, good size and type, good shade of colour; 3 Kelly, red, small but still good; r Horne; good class. 8 WKS., 4: Poor class in numbers and quality; 1 Harris; 2 Johnson; 3 Longbottom. **CHALL SELF**, 27: 1 Longbottom; 2 Patchett; 3 Simpkins; r Johnson. 8 WKS., 16: 1 Fletcher; 2 Walker; 3 Simpkins; r Lockwood.—**LEONARD MARRIOTT**.

Chippenham D.F.A. will hold its summer show on June 21st. Will any specialist show club secretary who would like to hold his show in conjunction please write to Mr. G. F. Billel, hon. secretary, 11, Rowden Rd., Chippenham, Wilts.?