The American Mouse Fanciers' Club

By the REV. R. W. FERRIER

I HAVE much pleasure in announcing the following details of this new organization, which has now definitely formed, and will include Rat as well as Mouse Fanciers. It will be devoted to the breeding and exhibition of Fancy Mice and Rats, in accordance with the standards referred to hereafter.

The following compose the Executive Committee: Miss A. Blanchard; Dr. Clyde E. Keeler; Mr. S. P. Holman; Mr. B. A. Lang; Mr. B. L. Burgess; Mr. A. O. Philipp; Mr. Howard Jones; Mr. K. J. Devine; and the Rev. R. W. Ferrier, of Elizabethtown, N. Y., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee has decided that the subscription to the Club, open to all Mouse and Rat Fanciers shall be \$1.00 a year, and 50c a year for junior members under eighteen.

Standards. The Committee has adopted the standards of the National Mouse Club, of England, which are the only ones in existence for exhibition purposes. As the General Remarks in these refer to the ideal doe, the Committee has approved a separate standard for bucks. We are hoping, through the co-operation of the National Mouse Club, which is shortly issuing a new handbook, and Messrs. Watmoughs, Ltd., of Bradford, England, the printers, to secure copies of the pages containing



the standards. These when received will be issued with our own cover, and until these are ready to supply to members of the Club, we are not appealing for membership; though those who wish to apply for this may do so, and will receive a copy of the standards and rules of the Club the moment these are available. We should like to point out that every Mouse and Rat breeder should join the Club, as those who breed in large quantities can keep a separate stud of rats or mice.

Show Cages. The Committee had adopted the "Maxey" type of show cage as used in England, the inside color and that of the edges of the cage to be white, the outside and wires to be jade green. Members may make these for themselves, or they can be obtained, completely assembled, either in the white, or finished in Club colors, with or without the lid, which is intended to give added protection during travelling, at very reasonable prices from Mr. W. Coone, 445 W. Chicago St., Elgin, Ill., also travelling cases, to hold two, three, four, or six cages. The cages and travelling cases are made in correct size and shape and beautifully finished. The advantages of this type of cage are many. A mouse or rat is placed in each cage, the cages put in the travelling case, and shipped to the show secretary. On arrival, the cages are simply taken out, the lids, if any, folded back, and the mouse placed at once in the correct class. Every breeder should buy or make some of these cages, which will be compulsory at shows held under the rules and standards of the American Mouse Fanciers' Club.

Meanwhile, we shall do all that is possible to secure classes for Mice and Rats, so that fanciers may have the opportunity of exhibiting their stock. It will help greatly towards this end if fanciers will do their best to get mouse and rat classes at shows held in their neighborhood. If they will let me know when their efforts are successful, the Club will take steps in co-operating with the show authorities to have the classes well filled, to arrange about prize money, specials, etc. I hope to be in a position to report next month that still further progress has been made. ALL-PETS MAGAZINE will be the official organ of the Club.

How Maginnis Breeds Fancy Mice

By JOHN J. MAGINNIS Westmont, Illinois

A FTER a very pleasant visit with the Publisher and Editor of ALL-PETS MAGAZINE I was asked to write an article for publication a bout White Rats and Mice, I will try and answer some of the things I have been asked about the breeding and marketing of White Rats and Mice.

First, the market and demand. — Hospitals, laboratories and pet shops call for hundreds of them for experimentation and sales in pet shops to boys and girls for pets.

So far, those breeding them have been unable to supply the demand. Some breeders tell me they are raising 1,000 to 3,000 a week and sell all they can raise. I have often written as many as fifteen or more letters to breeders asking if they could help me out with a few hundred and was not able to get any. Most of them said they were sold out. Some of them wanting to buy of us if we could spare them.

Second, labor or work. The time required to feed and water several hundred Rats or Mice is not over an hour or two a day with out system. Once a week all cages are cleaned out and fresh shavings put in. (We have tried straw, sawdust, paper, etc. but find shavings the best of all. Also disenfect them to be sure no vermin exist.) We have good healthy stock. We ship only such as we ourselves would accept.

Third, experience and capital. Very little experience is required. They breed very rapidly. Twentyone days are required, so you see you will soon have a supply to select from. We started with 24 and since have had several thousand on hand to select from and market for all of those we wished to sell.

The capital required to start with is very small and the principal thing is to have good healthy, vigorous stock to begin with. The best is the cheapest in the long run.

Fourth—profits. Many ask if it will pay to raise White Rats and Mice. To these I can say after fiftyfive years in the mercantile business making from 10 to 25% on my sales, I have found with White Rats and Mice I can make 50% or more on a small investment and much less work.