

Mouse and Rat Notes: The Fancier's Library

By R. W. FERRIER

THOUGH I would hesitate to say that the Boston Mouse and Rat show will echo down the ages, nevertheless accounts of it have gone far and wide. Here is an item of interest, not only to mouse and rat fanciers, but also to cat, cavy, rabbit, canary, and other livestock societies. It is a leading article from the *Cat Gazette*, for February:

"Here's to the Mouse Fancy"

"In this issue is a report of the first American Mouse show, held in connection with the Boston Cat Club show. While at first thought a cat and a mouse show may not seem to correlate, the fact that half the exhibitors were cat fanciers shows that the Boston Club was not wrong in the choice of a companion show. After all, if a mouse show attracts more persons to see cats, a mouse show is good for the cat fancy. Any feature that draws more persons to the cat show is of value to the cat fancy and is entitled to the encouragement of fanciers.

"With Mrs. Virginia R. Cobb, long experienced in cat shows, as secretary of the mouse show, and Mrs. Mabel Lafayette, also an experienced cat fancier, as her assistant, the first American mouse show could not help but be a success.

"Therefore, the *Cat Gazette* congratulates the Boston Cat Club and the American Mouse Fanciers' Club on the first mouse show, and hopes there will be many more in the future." And so say all of us.

We are now busy trying to arrange further mouse and rat classes in other shows, and in connection with one of these we shall, in all probability, have once more at our disposal the organizing ability of Mrs. Cobb. To those who know her, no more need be said; anything this lady takes in hand is already marked for success, and we should consider ourselves exceedingly fortunate that such an experienced fancier should be willing to extend her aid and talents to the mouse fancy.

I recently spent a busy evening sending out to members the new handbook of the American Mouse Fanciers' Club, the rules of which have been made as short and simple as possible, yet are adequate. The standards deal with every variety of mouse and rat, including some new ones, with the number of points awarded

with the number of points awarded to each feature, a valuable indication to the fancier as to which points of his particular breed are considered most important, usually those most difficult to obtain. At the end of the handbook is a chart showing the relationship of different colors in mice, from which one can see at a glance which colors in cross-breeding will be dominant. Several members of the Club have advertisements in the book, so that you will have some idea where to look when you need mice or rats. Every fancier who wants to get the utmost in interest and satisfaction from his breeding—and who doesn't—should join; so look up last month's *ALL-PETS*, and send along your subscription, which will run a full year from the date it is received.

Apropos the Boston show, Miss Blanchard's report was a model of what I consider a show report should be: it gave exhibitors an idea of why their exhibits were placed as they were, which is much more satisfactory than the bare statement that you won third or fourth. I commend the report to the consideration of judges in other fancies.

Books

Those of us who write or advertise in *ALL-PETS* get a good deal of correspondence about mice and rats, and do our best to answer it to the best of our ability; but when we get a letter which says: "Please give full details of all the different breeds of mice and rats, how to breed and feed them, also full particulars and sizes of suitable breeding cages, and any other information you think I might need"; or, "What will you get if you breed red, white and blue mice together," we begin to feel that a little too much is expected of us, especially where we are expected to supply, not only information, but postage as well! So let me suggest that every fancier have at least one good book dealing with his hobby, since he will learn more in this way than a dozen letters could tell him. The books marked (*) are those written by expert fanciers for those who breed mice for exhibition.

Mice

*1. "The Fancy Mouse," by Mrs. E. D. Blowers. 10c, postpaid from Watmoughs, Ltd., Idle, Bradford, England. Mrs. Blowers is secretary of the National Mouse Club, and is famous for her mice. The book is short, and though written as an in-

roduction to the mouse fancy, gives a good deal of valuable information. (Please note: I have sold all my copies and cannot supply any more.)

2. "Fancy Mice and Rats for Pleasure and Profit," by S. P. Holman. 30c, postpaid from the author, Manatee, Fla. Well written, but does not deal with the exhibition side. Gives much information in a small compass, and is well worth reading.

*3. "Mice, for Breeder, Exhibitor, and Scientists," by J. Wood. 22c, postpaid from Watmoughs. For many years the handbook—and still is—of every English mouse fancier, and no one knows mice better than Joe Wood. Deals with everything—feeding, caging, exhibiting—with the exception of two or three new varieties. (See advertisement in this issue.)

4. "The Laboratory Mouse," by Dr. Clyde E. Keeler. \$1.50. Harvard University Press. Every fancier should read this book sooner or later. Gives all the science about color, etc., in mice anyone is likely to need, and will be found of the greatest value by the really serious mouse fancier.

*5. "Colour Inheritance in Fancy Mice," by Dr. W. Mackintosh Kerr. Five shilling and sixpence — about \$1.32 — from Watmoughs. Dr. Kerr, who is President of the National Mouse Club has written this book especially for fanciers, and puts before them, in an easily understood way, scientific knowledge gathered from many sources. Leaves untouched no phase of the mouse fancy, and is, in my opinion, the finest book yet written for the fancier who is breeding for exhibition.

Rats

There is unfortunately little to help the rat breeder and exhibitor. J. Woods' book has a chapter on rats, but this is not of much help. No. 2, Mr. Holman's book, has been, so far as I know, most helpful to rat fanciers. He has done a great deal of work in color breeding, and the book contains very helpful material for the rat breeder. Books on the laboratory white rat have little value for the rat breeder who means to exhibit.

As to the prices of the books, to those published in England must be added 15c for postage and money order commission. Expense can be saved by buying more than one at a time. All these books will give the fancier plenty to ponder about, and experience will do the rest. From the exhibiting fancier's point of view, Dr. Kerr's book is indispensable, and I think it will be many years before a better one is written.