

AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

Fashionable Pets.

SIAMESE CATS.

By Miss Frances Shupson, authoress of "The Book of the Cat."

There are two recognised varieties of Siamese cats—the royal and the chocolate. The former, however, is certainly the more beautiful in appearance; and whereas a number of fanciers keep and breed the Royal Siamese, I only know of one or two that have gone in for the chocolate variety. A visitor to Bangkok

has stated that no trouble is taken in Siam to keep this breed of cats pure, and that a great deal of twaddle is talked as to their being bred under royal supervision, also that more tabby, blacks and whites were to be seen in Siam than the cat known in England as the Royal Palace cat. There is a legend, however,

that these quaint creatures were kept exclusively and with great care in the King of Siam's Palace, and that a sort of religious sanctity surrounded them. The Buddhists, who believe in transmigration, considered these animals were a fitting resting place for the souls of their gods. Whether there is any truth in these traditions or not the fact remains that the Siamese cats most common in this country are called "Royal Siamese," and many of the cats exhibited nowadays are supposed to trace back their ancestry to dwellers in the royal palaces in Bangkok.

The Royal Siamese cats greatly resemble pug dogs in appearance, the body being pale fawn or cream, with dark chocolate points. The markings on

head, legs and tail should not merge into the cream.

Siamese are rather prolific breeders, the litters being generally large ones and the females, as a rule, in the minority.

There is no doubt that Siamese cats are extremely intelligent, being almost dog-like in their nature. They are charming companions and are specially suited for home pets. The sole objection to a Siamese house cat is the trying nature of its unmelodious voice. The males are terribly antagonistic to others of their sex, and fight with great persistency. There is an immense fascination about this peculiar breed of cat, which is yearly becoming more popular and fashionable.



"URSULA," OWNED BY LADY MARCUS BERENFORD.



MISS ARMITAGE'S SIAMESE KITTENS.



MISS DERBY HYDE'S "THAMES VALLEY MISSIS."

The Troubles of the Pretty Girl.

Diogenes, with his lantern, seeking an honest man in a corrupt community, had an easy task, writes Helen Oldfield in the "Chicago Tribune," compared with one who should search for a woman to refuse the gift of great beauty were it hers for the choosing, "fatal dower" though it be.

Mme. de Staël, with the brilliant intellect which made her a power in Europe, so that even the great Napoleon feared her mourned bitterly that the fates, so lavish with mental gifts, had refused her charm of person as well; and Queen Elizabeth, for all her wit and wisdom elsewhere, was a veritable fool in her craving for admiration of the beauty which did not exist, but which all who desired to please her were forced to concede and extol. Yet history teaches us no plainer lesson than that the crown of beauty is a thorny one; the great beauties of the world have rarely been happy women. Undoubtedly "a beautiful maid is a cheering sight to see," as well as a pleasant one, yet the passably pretty girl is usually more fortunate in the long run than she who is dazzlingly beautiful, while in many respects the plain woman often fares better than either.

In the first place, great beauty renders its possessor unpleasantly conspicuous. Wherever she goes all eyes are upon her, and her beauty, like the famous "blue china," is difficult to "live up to." If great wealth go with the marvellous beauty, the woman thus richly dowered may have an easy time. Still, life is made up of compensations, and great belles, for some occult reason, rarely make happy marriages. There is no apparent safety in a multitude of suitors.

When the beauty belongs to the lower walks of life, her lovely face may prove her greatest misfortune. Temptation assails her on every side, and her beauty is actually an obstacle to her earning an honest living. While merely good looking girls, for example, are desirable as shop girls, strikingly beautiful ones are objected to by all but confectioners. "We want girls to sell goods, not for show. Girls who are too pretty think too much of themselves and too little of their business," says the manager of a large department store.

There is always room for the strikingly pretty girl on the stage, but brains must go with the beautiful face in order to assure success, and even then the pitfalls along the way are many and terrible.

It is difficult for a beautiful woman to escape being spoiled; vanity and selfishness are taught her so soon as to be almost her birthright. From the time when the pretty baby attracts general attention on the street her face is her fortune and she expects admiration as her due. Men especially forgive her most things because of her beauty, and she learns to be pert and overbearing. Her exactions, her caprices, her actual ill-humour, are all merely "pét y Fanny's way" so long as she continues to be pretty. Her plainer sister is taught to be useful and to make the most of whatever talents she may pos-

sess, but the Beauty, with a big B, accomplishes her end in life if she acquires a few surface attainments to enable her to shine in society. She has only to smile, and look charming; so long as she listens her admirers are content. But, alas and alack-a-day! her eggs are all in one basket, and some time, sooner or later, that basket is sure to be upset!

Beauty is proverbially perishable. Sometimes it is blighted by one feli stroke, as a rose by untimely frost, and when that mischance is spared the rose must surely fade with time. It is a singular fact that few great beauties understand the art of growing old gracefully. Among the saddest sights on earth is that of a woman striving vainly to hold on to her vanishing beauty and youth; struggling to repair the ravages of time, the thief, with paint and powder and wearing garments which only serve as a travesty of youth.

In many respects the merely good looking girl has really the best time, although she seldom, if ever, is aware of the fact, and usually envies her pretty sister, especially when she sees her own Jack looking at that sister with admiration written large in his eyes. The girl who has no great beauty to live up to need not worry unduly over her dress, so long as it is passably pretty and becoming. A freckle more or less is not a dire misfortune, nor a pimple sufficient cause for seclusion in her chamber under plea of illness. She knows always that she can pass in the crowd without attracting comment one way or the other, and if she is sensible, she does her best to be clever, by which means she often succeeds in being so entertaining that even when she has no claim to good looks she is more sought after and admired than women with ten times her personal attractions.

"So that is Miss Blank!" exclaimed a stranger at the first sight of a woman who possessed an interstate reputation for her social charm. "Why, she is actually homely!" "Yes," was the answer, "I suppose she is, but wait till you hear her talk. No one who knows her ever thinks of her looks. Her friends all call her the charmer."

The beauty who would be happy must forget that she is beautiful and endeavour to live as though she were plain, while the wise mother of a pretty girl will rigidly exact that she add graces of mind to those of person and so become indeed the "perfect woman nobly planned."

RHEUMATIC GOUT CURED.

Mr W. Oakley, painter, New Brighton, writes: "I was suffering from a severe attack of Rheumatic Gout, and got a bottle of Rheumo. After a few doses, I was able to shave myself, although before taking it I could not use a knife. I will never be without Rheumo for the future, and will gladly recommend it to my suffering friends."

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