

study of cats and the growth of cat clubs in this country. To most persons, cats, even favorite cats, are simply animals. To Mrs. Winslow they are much more ; while she does not worship them as the Egyptians did, she has much respect for them, which the readers of her book are quite certain to share even before they have finished it.

The popular literature of cats is scanty. Professor Wilder, of Cornell, dissected many cats and wrote learnedly on their internal machinery ; but this book could hardly have been popular among cats and cat owners. Mr. Harrison Weir, an Englishman, wrote "Our Cats, and All About Them," which came out some ten years ago. Until Mrs. Winslow's book, these two began and ended the list. The new book will take its place with that of Mr. Weir ; better written and more entertaining, but not so technical, omitting much that might have been inserted, such as the rules for judging in cat shows, etc., and not presenting such a complete collection of remedies for the ills of cat flesh. With these two criticisms recorded, little but praise remains for the book.

Mrs. Winslow discusses her own cats, which were and are charming persons ; she tells about the cats of other persons, and about cats in England, and in poetry, and in art—three totally different places ; she relates the history of some cat clubs and cat shows, as well as of cat hospitals and refuges ; and she discusses, only superficially, however, the language of cats. She seems never even to have read "Through the Looking Glass ;" certainly, though she speaks of "Professor" Garner's study of monkey talk, she says nothing of Alice's idea that cats should purr for "yes," and mew for "no."

In a chapter on historic cats, Mrs. Winslow breaks away from convention in a way to charm those who have to read many books. She begins her chapter

CONCERNING CATS

IN putting together her book *Concerning Cats*, Mrs. Helen M. Winslow has done an excellent piece of work, which should give a perceptible "boost" to the

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thus : "It is quite common for writers on the cat to say, 'The story of Theophile Gautier's cats is too familiar to need comment.' I do not believe it is familiar to the average reader. For this reason it shall be repeated in these pages." And then she retells it, in Mrs. Cashel-Hoey's translation.

Chapters on the origin of cats, on their varieties, and characteristics, are both interesting and valuable ; of more value, however, is a chapter on the general treatment of cats. Like a true woman, Mrs. Winslow keeps the most important part of the book for a postscript, in the shape of an appendix; this is a chapter on the diseases of cats and their remedies.

The book contains a remarkably fine collection of cat pictures, some of them of cat-personages described, but most those of merely high bred and beautiful animals; notable are the pictures of the Silverton and the Lockhaven quartettes, and of the ten Angora kittens. No cat lover will be able to rest without owning the book; some persons who see it will become cat lovers, and those who are afraid of cats may study them here, without danger of being frightened by them.

R. G. B.