

THE
OLD ENGLISH SHEEP DOG

FROM
PUPPYHOOD TO CHAMPIONSHIP

A HANDBOOK FOR BEGINNERS

BY

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Author of "Down by the Swanee River," "Rhymes Without Reason," etc., etc.

WITH THIRTY-ONE ILLUSTRATIONS

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Chas An

Dear Mr. Howard.



TWO OF MY FAVOURITES.

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PREFACE



SIDE by side with the growing popularity of a picturesque and singularly fascinating breed there has arisen of recent years, within my own experience, a demand for some simple handbook which may serve to guide the footsteps of the beginner amidst the minor obstacles of conflicting opinions.

I would fain have seen the task of its supply fulfilled by hands more competent than mine.

But I have reaped already an unforeseen reward in the kindly encouragement extended to a comparative novice by one and all of the well-known breeders and exhibitors to whom I have applied for assistance.

Amongst those to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for invaluable hints, for permission to reproduce illustrations, and for other friendly help, I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. William G. Weager, one of the founders of

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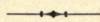
the Old English Sheep Dog Club ; Sir Humphrey de Trafford, its president ; Mr. J. Thomas and Mr. Freeman Lloyd, two of its original members ; Mr. T. H. Shout, for many years its honorary secretary ; Messrs. Tilley, H. Dickson, F. Clayton, Fred Wilmot, F. Travis, F. Birch, J. H. Strick, Dr. MacGill, Mrs. Rivers ; and, in no small degree, Mrs. Fare Fosse.

For the chapter on breeding I am greatly indebted to a work entitled *Toogood's Principles of Dog Breeding*, published by Messrs. Toogood & Sons, Southampton, which I earnestly commend to the notice of those who wish to study this important subject in a specially practical form.

One word with regard to the illustrations. Most of them are from photographs, some of which fail entirely to do justice to their subject, and I have included them only because no better portrait was available. I think that even an indifferent picture conveys, to the mind of the beginner, a clearer mental impression than pages of written description.

A. H.

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THE
OLD ENGLISH SHEEP DOG

CHAPTER I

Introductory

THE origin of the breed, alas! like that of many others, lies buried in the mists of antiquity. Whether the prototype of our modern bob-tail was, as some authorities aver, a massive, powerful animal, whose duties included the guardianship of his flock against the attacks of bears and wolves, must remain a matter of conjecture.

Certain it is that in foreign countries, where these conditions still obtain, and the duties of the sheep dog are those of a guardian rather than a drover's dog, the variety differs considerably from our own.

The mighty Calabrian, or sheep dog of the Pyrenees, guardian of the flocks of the Abruzzi, stands over thirty inches high, and is built on the lines of a mastiff rather than a bob-tail. He is usually white in colour, with broad patches of tan or brown and a bushy tail.

The herd dog of the Himalayas, again, is shaped more like a massive wolf-hound than a sheep dog, and is a

grim, ill-tempered customer to deal with. His colour also is usually white, with brown markings.

The Owtchah, or Russian sheep dog, which approximates far more closely to our own breed, is a more compact and squarely built dog, massive in every respect, and fully thirty inches at the shoulder, very big of bone, and wonderfully active for his weight. Some specimens of this breed, but for their long tails, resemble even in colour an enormously exaggerated Old English Sheep Dog in almost every point.

It may be that, in the remoteness of buried centuries, these varieties had a common ancestral stock, and that the originators of our breed were imported into England at a time when the duties of a sheep dog demanded of him qualities and characteristics no longer necessary in our more peaceful times.

But this, at the best, is mere guesswork, beyond all possibility of human proof.

A point of far greater importance, and gratifying in the extreme to every lover of the breed, is the fact that the Old English Sheep Dog of to-day retains, to a quite extraordinary degree, the outward semblance of his forbears of a hundred and thirty years ago. For I have in my possession an engraving, executed in 1771 by John Boydell, of a picture by Gainsborough, which depicts a former Duke of Buccleuch with his arms clasped round the neck of an excellent specimen of the breed. The face of the dog, in common with that of his master,





1771. AFTER GAINSBOROUGH.

wears the unmistakable stamp of distinguished ancestry.

If, by the breathing of some magic incantation, this pair might be recalled to life, they would furnish abundant evidence that the human race, in matters of outward adornment, has lost considerably in picturesqueness; but the heavy overcoat of the sheep dog, in all its wayward shagginess, remains to a hair the fashion of to-day.

This engraving, the earliest pictured record of a sheep dog with which I am acquainted, is here reproduced.

Some thirty years later, in the *Sportsman's Cabinet*, published by W. Taplin in 1803, may be seen the reproduction of a painting by Philip Reinagle of a shepherd's dog.

The animal it depicts, judged by his surroundings and measured against the sheep beside him, must have been a very big one. He stands high off the ground and is massive in every respect, deep in the brisket and heavy in bone above the knee. His body is far too long for modern ideas, his loin not nearly stout enough, and he is furnished with a long, well-feathered tail. But he has a broad muzzle and shapely head and a long arched neck set on a capital pair of shoulders. From his expression I should judge him to have been wall-eyed.

In general appearance he resembles the giant Himalayan sheep dog rather than our bob-tail, and conveys

an impression of great muscular power and activity. He appears to be light in colour, with a coat which suggests harshness of texture, and he has a fascinating wear-and-tear appearance. But he is not nearly so compact and well-proportioned as the dog in the Gainsborough picture, and suggests rather the stealthy feline grace of a wild animal than the friendly domesticity of the Duke of Buccleuch's favourite.

In 1835 Sidney Cooper painted a picture of a bob-tail which it was my good fortune to secure at the dispersal of the veteran artist's works. It is signed, dated, and simply inscribed, "From Nature." Painted in his prime, it is a virile example of Cooper at his best.

A sturdy blue and white customer is his recumbent model, big of bone and skull and body, but wonderfully well-proportioned throughout, with an air of alert sagacity which makes its mute appeal against the modern curse of consanguinity.

In 1845 Youatt accompanies his description of the drover's dog with an illustration of a long-legged, long-bodied animal, light in bone and pointed in face, with semi-erect ears, which looks more like a coarse type of bob-tailed collie than an Old English Sheep Dog. He writes: "In other countries, where the flock is exposed to the attacks of the wolf, the sheep dog is larger than the British drover's dog, not far inferior in size to a mastiff."

Richardson, in 1847, comes nearer to the modern ideal when he remarks: "The shepherd's dog of England is

larger and stronger than the preceding"—collie—"and has much of the appearance of a cross with the great rough water dog. It is coarser in the muzzle and in coat, and is destitute of tail. In sagacity, however, I believe it is fully equal to its more northern relative." This article is not accompanied by any illustration.

In 1859 Stonehenge, in his book on the dog, gives a description which probably deserves the palm as indicating what a modern bob-tail should *not* be. "He has," remarks this fluent author, "a sharp muzzle, medium-sized head, with small, piercing eyes, a well-shaped body, formed after the model of a strong, low greyhound, but clothed in thick and somewhat woolly hair." The artist who illustrates this misleading description aids and abets the author in his offence; and, if Stonehenge's readers accepted his views, one sympathises with those who affirm that the Old English Sheep Dog deteriorated sadly about the middle of the nineteenth century.

But better days were in store for him, for in 1873 a separate class for his variety was given for the first time in the Curzon Hall, Birmingham. The response, it is true, was scarcely encouraging, for there were only three entries, and their quality was so moderate that the judge, Mr. M. B. Wynn, only considered himself justified in awarding a second prize.

But interest in the breed had been reawakened, and the good seed bore fruit, for in 1888 a small band of

enthusiasts, headed by Mr. William G. Weager, founded the Old English Sheep Dog Club, with the avowed object of promoting the breeding of the old-fashioned English sheep dog, and of giving prizes at various shows held under Kennel Club rules. The result, in the same year, was a collection of twenty dogs in the two classes provided at Curzon Hall, by far the largest number of bob-tails gathered together up to that time.

In consideration of the far-reaching effects of their efforts, the names of these pioneers are worthy of record. They included, besides Mr. Weager, Dr. Edwardes-Ker, Mrs. Mayhew, and Messrs. J. Thomas, Freeman Lloyd, and Parry Thomas. Their task was no easy one, for in those days there were about as many different types of bob-tails as there were members of the Club, and each member stood staunchly by his own.

But, whatever the nature of the discussions which enlivened their proceedings, they certainly stuck to their work, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for evolving from the chaos of conflicting opinions a practical working standard.

In 1889 Mr. Freeman Lloyd reprinted in pamphlet form a series of articles contributed by him to the American paper, *Turf, Field, and Farm*, and a pleasant note of genuine enthusiasm enhances the value of his well-considered remarks. Of the five dogs illustrated in this pamphlet, only one stands out as a real good sort, in the shapely person of Champion Gwen, but Mr. Freeman



1803. AFTER REINAGLE.

Lloyd unhesitatingly recognises this fact. "For some time," he remarks, "I have been advocating a certain type, and have been ably assisted in my endeavours by Mr. William G. Weager and others in this country. I believe it to be the true type, not to say anything of the picturesque sort. For the moment I have but one photograph by me of the type I wish to point out as the correct one."

In the following year, 1890, Mr. Rawdon Lee devotes a chapter of his book *The Collie or Sheep Dog* to the bob-tail. He quotes at length the late Dr. Edwardes-Ker, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, an authority of thirty years' experience as owner and breeder. Mr. Rawdon Lee accurately describes the correct type, and illustrates it in the person of that sterling good dog Sir Cavendish.

But he is no optimist, and does not consider the bob-tail, he says, a great success as a show dog. "Personally," he writes, "I do not believe that this variety of dog is destined to obtain any great hold on our human affections. His disposition is at present not quite suitable for a domestic companion, though improved associations might remedy this, and his long shaggy coat (especially the abundance of hair on his legs) must for reasons of cleanliness make him unfitted as an inhabitant of the drawing-room, which, popularised as the Club wishes him to be, would be his place."

In 1894 the Old English Sheep Dog Club held a show on their own account, a fixture which has since become

an annual one, usually in conjunction with the Collie Club.

In 1897 Dr. Edwardes-Ker, in his report to the club, writes as follows: "The Old English Sheep Dog is gradually and surely pushing its way into a prominent position in all classes of society, who cannot fail to observe that there are few dogs of any breed which can compare with this variety on the score of sagacity, hardihood, and courage—which attributes tend most materially to constitute a good companion, who can rough it anywhere with anyone." In conclusion he pleads: "Above all things let us beseech you sheep dog breeders to avoid consanguinity, and its consequent race of imbecile individuals, if your object and aim is to maintain that hardihood of nerve and limb which assists to form the essential characteristics of this picturesque and rugged breed."

In 1899, in the new edition of *Modern Dogs*, it is pleasant to find that Mr. Rawdon Lee has modified his earlier opinions. "Within the past few years," he writes, "the bob-tailed sheep dog has become much popularised, and at many of the South Country shows several classes are provided which invariably attract good entries. For instance, at the most recent show of the Kennel Club there were fifty entries; at a comparatively small show held at Streatham, Surrey, early in 1898, there were forty-six entries; and at the same time that this dog has become so popular his quality has been greatly improved—indeed, it is seldom a bad specimen is benched."

This is eminently satisfactory, and may be supplemented with the note that at Cruft's Show in 1904 there were no less than eighty-four entries in the sheep dog classes—in point of quality perhaps the strongest collection of bob-tails hitherto benched.

From a careful study of the sources from which these brief chronological data are culled, I deduce that, whatever his origin, the bob-tail has existed in this country for the last hundred and thirty years in very much the same general appearance as he presents to-day, that his popularity has steadily increased during the past quarter of a century, and that every authority is unanimous in ascribing to him exceptional sagacity.

At one time or another he has been claimed as the special property of various districts, some asserting that he was originally of Welsh extraction, others maintaining that he hails from Suffolk, Hants, and Dorsetshire, and others, again, that he is a descendant of the bearded collie of Scotland. I think there can be little doubt that this latter animal is identical with our own, and that the two varieties trace their ancestry to a common origin. Indeed, the only noticeable difference is in the tail, which the bearded collie possesses and the Old English Sheep Dog does not; and this is, generally, a mere matter of amputation.

The custom originated, it is said, with the drovers, who were wont to cut off their dogs' tails in order to evade the tax, and it is frequently affirmed that genera-

tions of continued amputation have resulted in the dogs being now frequently born with natural bob-tails. But this possibility is strenuously negatived by the arguments of celebrated biologists. Professor Weissman, for instance, asserts that no changes induced in animals after birth can be transmitted, in even the slightest degree, to their offspring by heredity.

Be this as it may, the fact remains that Old English Sheep Dogs are born sometimes with tails and sometimes without; and many instances might be cited of litters containing puppies of both varieties. Meanwhile, custom decrees that our dog shall have no tail. Wherefore, if he happen to be born with one, it is a simple and necessary operation to remove it. So much for outward appearance.

In character the bob-tail is an animal of quite exceptional charm. Of his sagacity there can be no question, and any specimen of the breed, tactfully handled in his youth, can be trained to accomplish wonders as a drover's dog either with sheep or cattle; for the instinct of the race is ineradicable. Further, he can be trained with little trouble as a first-class retriever.

Moreover, he is an ideal companion. His common-sense, his hardihood, and his innate good manners mark him out as a canine "pal." He is devoted to his master, an excellent guard and house dog, and he is endowed with a gentlemanly instinct for moving about a room with the least possible noise and fuss. Give him his



1835 AFTER SIDNEY COOPER

food at regular hours, all the exercise you can manage, and he will thrive—even in London.

Certainly his heavy coat is a drawback in wet and muddy weather, and if circumstances compel you to keep him in town without the possibility of a roll in dry straw when he comes home dirty, you must make up your mind to rough dry him before he settles down upon your Turkey carpet. But his comradeship is well worth that five minutes' trouble. In his quaint, unobtrusive way he will make himself at home in a drawing-room, a railway carriage, a hansom cab, or on the show bench. Wherever you take him, he is ready to adapt himself to his surroundings, sensible, even-tempered, picturesque, and never ridiculous.

And, after all, there are few companions, even human, of whom you can expect so much, and get it.

CHAPTER II

The Correct Type

THE first care of the beginner must be to familiarise himself, once and for all, with the points which go to make a perfect bob-tail. Until he has mastered, beyond all possibility of mistake, the essentials of the correct type, until he carries in his eye a mental picture of the ideal dog, he is necessarily working in the dark.

The process of building up this standard of perfection is a task which will vary according to the pupil's aptitude. Some men possess an unerring instinct for type which seldom plays them false from the beginning, while others, after years of study, remain inconsistent, variable, and unreliable. But it is absolutely essential to success that the lesson should be learned.

At the outset many pitfalls beset the beginner's path, for the truism that "Experts differ" is specially applicable to canine matters. Moreover, one of the commonest failings of the average human being is that of over-estimating the excellence of his own property. The sportsmanlike instinct which generously recognises the merits of a rival is all too rare, and the tendency of the

exhibitor is to magnify the bad points of the animals he does not own and the good ones of those he does. Wherefore, pending the maturity of his own judgment, the beginner need not necessarily believe everything he hears.

In his quest after the ideal, however, he has a trusty and impartial counsellor at hand. For the Old English Sheep Dog Club, which has done so much for the improvement of the breed, has established a standard which could not easily be improved upon, and its published description is in every respect an admirable one. The beginner will do well to commit it to memory, word for word, from beginning to end.

In reproducing it here I take the opportunity of offering a word of congratulation to the experts who framed it for their unusual lucidity. The man who breeds a dog which shall answer in every detail to the standard here laid down has reason to be proud indeed of his achievement.

Thus it runs :

Skull. — Capacious, and rather squarely formed, giving plenty of room for brain power. The parts over the eyes should be well arched and the whole well covered with hair.

Jaw.—Fairly long, strong, square, and truncated ; the stop should be defined to avoid a deerhound face.

The attention of judges is particularly called to the above properties, as a long narrow head is a deformity.

Eyes.—Vary according to the colour of the dog, but dark or wall eyes are to be preferred.

Nose.—Always black, large, and capacious.

Teeth.—Strong and large, evenly placed, and level in opposition.

Ears.—Small, and carried flat to side of head, coated moderately.

Legs.—The forelegs should be dead straight, with plenty of bone, removing the body a medium height from the ground, without approaching legginess; well coated all round.

Feet.—Small, round; toes well arched and pads thick and hard.

Tail.—Puppies requiring docking must have an appendage left of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 in., and the operation performed when not older than four days.

Neck and shoulders.—The neck should be fairly long, arched gracefully, and well coated with hair; the shoulders sloping and narrow at the points, the dog standing lower at the shoulder than at the loin.

Body.—Rather short and very compact, ribs well sprung, and brisket deep and capacious. The loin should be very stout and gently arched, while the hindquarters should be round and muscular, and with well let down hocks, and the hams densely coated with a thick, long jacket in excess of any other part.

Coat.—Profuse, and of good hard texture; not straight, but shaggy and free from curl. The undercoat should be

a waterproof pile, when not removed by grooming or season.

Colour.—Any shade of grey, grizzle, blue or blue-merled, with or without white markings, or in reverse; any shade of brown or sable to be considered distinctly objectionable, and not to be encouraged.

Height.—22 in. and upwards for dogs; slightly less for bitches. Type, character, and symmetry are of the greatest importance, and on no account to be sacrificed to size alone.

General appearance.—A strong, compact-looking dog of great symmetry, absolutely free of legginess or weazleness, profusely coated all over, very elastic in its gallop, but in walking or trotting he has a characteristic ambling or pacing movement, and his bark should be loud, with a peculiar *pot cassé* ring in it. Taking him all round, he is a thick-set, muscular, able-bodied dog, with a most intelligent expression, free from all *poodle* or *deerhound* character.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head	5
Eye	5
Colour	10
Ears	5
Body, loins, and hindquarters	20
Jaw	10
Nose	5
Teeth	5
Legs	10
Neck and shoulders	10
Coat	15
Total	<hr/> 100

From this most excellent description—terse, yet practical and comprehensive—I have built up for myself a mental picture of the ideal bob-tail as he exists in my imagination. Alas! I have not seen him in the flesh, much less owned or bred him; and artist and modeller alike have failed to reproduce him to my satisfaction. They hold that I am unnecessarily exacting, hinting, moreover, that it is easier to preach than to practise.

“Breed one,” laughs the artist. “I’ll paint him for you.”

“Show me your ideal,” says the sculptor, “and I’ll model him.”

Some day, perchance, if the gods be very good, I may. Meanwhile I must content myself, perforce, with a mere word portrait.

Picture to yourself, then, a big, shaggy skull, with plenty of width between the small, close-hanging ears; neither too flat nor yet too dome-shaped, but gently rounded, capacious, and rather squarely formed. It surmounts a pair of intelligent eyes of the deepest shade of brown, set well apart, and is divided by a clearly defined stop from the strong square muzzle, ending in a big black nose, beneath which a set of large, white, even teeth are placed with mathematical precision one above the other. Shade it outwards from white to richest blue, and add a stiff, strong beard of grizzled grey. Now set this head upon a longish, heavy-coated neck which arches gracefully into the sloping shoulders, with just a hint of narrowness at their points.

Facing your model, carry your eye down the fore-legs, straight and strong as iron bars, their big, flat bone buried in a wealth of shaggy hair, inside and out, right down to the small, round feet with their thick, hard pads and well-arched toes. Note how he stands on them, for all his strength and apparent weight, as lightly as a cat, with never a symptom of weakness at the pastern joints.

Stand, now, a little distance off, and take a broad-side view. Your first impression is one of sturdy squareness. From shoulder to rump the back slopes gently upwards, the stoutness of the loin and the rounded breadth of the muscular hindquarters counterbalanced by the depth of brisket and the well-sprung ribs, where the heart and breathing apparatus have ample room for play. No symptom of the docked tail shows beneath the profuseness of coat, which smothers everything save the clearly-defined angle of the hocks, set unusually low, but not too close together.

Next run your hands in fancy through the heavy coat, and tell me how I shall best describe it. It is very long, it is very harsh, it is not in the least curly, neither is it in any degree straight. It is above all things *shaggy*, and conveys an impression of growing profusely all sorts of ways. Underneath it is immensely thick and not so harsh in texture. You would judge it to be extremely waterproof, and impervious to any weather—capable even of resisting the vagaries of our English climate.

The colour scheme is blue and white, the former predominating. A blaze of pure white lies on skull and muzzle, collar, chest, and fore-paws, but the remainder of head and body is of so wondrous a tint of blue that Nature seems to have overlaid her work with a thin veneer of hoar-frost in the moonlight.

Small wonder that my friend the artist deemed me too exacting!

Now as to height. At the shoulder I make my ideal exactly twenty-four inches and a half, which is two inches and a half more than the minimum set down in the Club standard. But so truly proportioned is the dog that very few experts would believe him to stand so high without the evidence of a spirit-level across his withers. The breadth of skull and limb, the heavy, shaggy coat, the spring of ribs, the stoutness of loin, and the massive muscular quarters, all detract from any suspicion of legginess or length of back. Despite his inches, he has a peculiarly cobby and active appearance. At the highest point of the quarters he measures nearly an inch more, and from the spot where the back of the neck meets the top of the shoulder the measurement is twenty-four inches and a half again to the extreme tip of his bob-tail. That is where the sturdy squareness of his frame comes in.

Lead him out upon the grass now, unhook his chain, and let him go loose. He gallops like a racehorse, hind legs well under him—active and lithe beyond suspicion,



ONE OF THE BEST.

and fast enough to head the wildest Welsh sheep that ever led revolt upon his native mountains. But call him up to heel, and note his action as he shuffles along beside you. It is exactly that of a bear.

He moves like a trained American pacer, the fore and hind leg on either side of him working simultaneously, with a quaintly indescribable waddle—a long stride which waggles the whole hindquarter from loin to toe at every step.

Such is my mental picture of the ideal Old English Sheep Dog.

Let us pass now to the scale of points, noting carefully their relative values, and especially their proportion one to another. Incidentally, it is worthy of remark that a perfect sense of proportion is one of the rarest and most valuable of human assets. In other matters than the judging of dogs it is all worthy of cultivation.

Head, ears, eyes, nose, and teeth, counting for five points each, make up exactly a quarter of the possible hundred, and the jaw counts for ten. Therefore, assuming each to be perfect, an ideal bob-tail head is worth thirty-five per cent. of the total possible points. This should be specially borne in mind, for the head is so striking a feature of the animal's personality as to impress itself most forcibly upon his judges.

Neck and shoulders count for ten, and legs for ten more, which brings us up to fifty-five points.

The allowance for coat is fifteen points, and it is

therefore to be remembered that, according to our working standard, a perfect coat is the most important individual item hitherto reached. We have thus accounted for seventy points.

The body, which includes loins and hindquarters, is credited with twenty points, and is consequently the most important item of all to be considered in comparing one animal with another.

With the addition of ten points for colour, we reach the total of the possible hundred.

This question of colour is purposely left to the last, as being the only detail in which very considerable latitude appears to be left to individual taste. Elsewhere the right and wrong are so clearly defined that careful consideration must find a decisive answer. But as regards colour the only rule laid down is that any shade of brown or sable is to be considered distinctly objectionable.

From this it may be safely argued that, if the only fault an expert critic can find with your dog is that he is either too light or too dark in colour, the animal can hold his own. For the matter is merely one of the expert critic's individual taste.

There remain two items, both of them important ones, with which the scale of points has not concerned itself, namely, action and size. And it seems to me that the controversies which arise from time to time as to the improvement or deterioration of the breed centre on these

two questions. The very fact of their doing so points conclusively to the excellence of the working standard elsewhere laid down.

Personally, I am free to confess myself an optimist as regards the breed. I hold that the true type has not only been maintained, but that increased competition and generations of selected matings have improved upon it by the judicious combination of essential characteristics.

A certain glamour necessarily clings around the heroes of the past, whose excellence lies buried with them beyond the risk of refutation. All honour to them for the good work they have done.

But suppose that it were possible to resuscitate a champion of fifteen years ago, and pit him, in his prime, against a champion of to-day. Judged by the collective talent of our leading experts, many of whom would have a tender memory to bias their decision, I hold that the verdict would be an overwhelming majority in favour of the modern dog. For he would be found to excel, under the Club standard of points, in almost every detail which subsequent generations of breeding have brought to perfection.

In the matter of action, however, the ground is not so sure. I think it is open to question whether the average bob-tail of to-day is as good a mover as were his ancestors, and whether our modern judges devote quite enough attention to this most salient requirement.

Obviously, the conditions under which they perform

their task are all against them. As a rule the show ring is far too small and too crowded to admit of proper liberty and movement, and a dog which is practically perfect in make and shape can sometimes hold his own in the tiny arena where a slow trot of a dozen yards is the most that can be exacted of him, whereas, if it were possible to take him out into an open field and ask him to gallop, his cramped action might become woefully apparent. And the question naturally arises, How are we to guard against the grave danger of breeding sheep dogs which may be paragons of perfection in the show ring, and useless outside it? The answer, fortunately, is not far to seek.

Under the heading "General Appearance" we learn that the dog must be "very elastic in his gallop, but in walking or trotting he has a characteristic ambling or pacing movement." And it will be found that these two characteristics are virtually synonymous. For I have never yet known a bob-tail, whose slow walking action had the genuine bear-like roll, to fail in elasticity of gallop when free to move at speed.

The trained eye will recognise without hesitation this liberty of walking action even in the cramped arena of the show ring, and infallibly argue from it how the dog would gallop if space permitted.

The fact that the show dog is frequently too fat and scant of breath does not touch the argument, so far as action is concerned. That is a mere mistake on the part of his owner, who elects to exhibit him out of working

condition. A dog that can walk slowly across the ring, ambling with true characteristic liberty and freedom, can gallop with the required elasticity of movement, if properly conditioned to do so.

And now let us consider the crucial question of size—most fertile subject of periodical controversy. Personally I would sum it up in the ancient truism, a *good* big one will beat a *good* little one.

Always assuming that the proportions are perfect, my own ideal is a dog of twenty-four inches and a half at the shoulder. But there must be no suspicion of legginess and weediness on the one hand, no hint of bulky coarseness on the other. The perfect medium combines quality with his size, and conveys an impression of immense strength and muscular activity. He is big of bone and skull, but he is wonderfully sturdy, symmetrical, and compact. Elastic in his gallop, free and limber in his shuffling walk, he is a model of courage, hardihood, and sagacity—a workman all over; for we must remember above everything that we are dealing with a dog whose primary purpose in life is to do a drover's work, and that not only with sheep, but with bullocks—frequently, in the New Forest country, with headstrong, wilful ponies.

I think that the late Dr. Edwardes-Ker, whose thirty years' experience as owner, breeder, and exhibitor entitled him to an authoritative voice in the matter, was sound in his argument when he urged:

“As to the size of the original breed, I cannot help thinking he was a much bigger dog than is seen nowadays. They have a dwarfed appearance; they are all *little big 'uns*; and to obtain that characteristic there must have been the size some time or other. And I confess I prefer the big ones; they have a grander appearance. A big blue and white dog of twenty-five inches catches the eye, and he can carry a heavy coat without looking like a smothered Yorkshire or a door-mat-like Isle of Skye terrier.”

On the other side of the question the argument is frequently advanced that the big dog is unable to pass, should occasion demand it, over his sheep's backs.

On the face of it, the case which calls for this acrobatic display of canine agility must be extremely rare. It argues a mass of densely packed sheep, hemmed in on either side by an impassable obstruction, and an immediate necessity for their guardian to get in front of them. Admitting these premisses, we are to suppose that a dog, with sufficient sagacity to travel over a flock's backs at all, is unable to find a way round.

It is an unusual combination of circumstances, as any drover will tell you, but it is well within the bounds of possibility, and we are dealing with a workman. Let us consider it in all seriousness.

It may be that you have sometime noticed the extraordinary lightness with which a trained athlete of massive proportions strides over his obstacles in a hurdle

race; or it may be that you have sometime marked with surprise the well-proportioned man of bulk as the lightest dancer in the ball-room. If not, give the matter future heed, for my ideal sheep dog of twenty-four inches and a half is in all essentials a trained athlete, and, if circumstances compel him to perform the feat, I will wager that he shall pick his wary way across the woolly backs of the tight-wedged flock and reach their silly heads before they know what's happened.

On this question of inches, I am well aware, my ideal comes into conflict with that of breeders of far older standing than myself—breeders, moreover, whose opinions are deserving of every consideration. But I stand by my conviction the more strongly for the reason that with increasing competition every detail becomes of more importance. And the bigger you get your dog the more you exaggerate his faults; so that it is obviously more difficult to achieve perfection on a large scale than a small one.

If, then, one of my dissentients should chance to breed an animal whose only fault is a shoulder height of twenty-four and a half, or even twenty-five inches, I shall be more than grateful for the opportunity of being allowed to buy him. I think he will speedily vindicate my confidence in his excellence. But alas! the competition for his paragon's possession may induce the lucky owner to retain the dog himself!

The fact of it is that in discussions on size we are apt

to confound mere grossness of bulk with well-developed muscular magnitude. And magnitude, be it noted, is synonymous with greatness.

In the matter of mere shapeless bulk I side entirely with those who wish to stamp out the large, long-backed, slack-loined bob-tail, whose *only* claim to distinction is his exceptional height. Indeed, I am responsible for the recent addition to the Club's description, which now concludes with the pregnant sentence: "Type, character, and symmetry are of the greatest importance, and on no account to be sacrificed to size alone." And I should unhesitatingly award the palm to a little dog of twenty-three inches against his rival of twenty-five, if the latter's additional height had been obtained at the expense of characteristic type, in which the smaller animal excelled.

But I close the question as I opened it, with the aphorism that a *good* big one will beat a *good* little one. And again I italicise the adjective.

In the fascinating quest for a perfect bob-tail of the correct type there are a few simple lessons which it behoves the beginner to master.

First, let him learn by heart the Club's description and the scale of points, until he has thoroughly grasped their relative values.

Secondly, let him never miss an opportunity of applying them, by handling a bob-tail from head to stern, whether in coat or out of it, and mentally recording the result.

Thirdly, let him accustom his eye to the acknowledged best of the breed, comparing them not only with each other, but with inferior specimens, until he has built up a mental picture of the perfect ideal.

Fourthly, let him study the exhibits in the ring, and place them, according to his standard, in their relative order of merit. Subsequently he may get the best judge he knows to tell him where he was wrong.

Lastly, let him not imagine that all his own geese are swans, nor yet attempt to prove that the swans of other men are necessarily geese!

CHAPTER III

The Principles of Breeding

THE gravest danger which ever besets the future of a popular breed is that of injudicious mating in the hope of producing exceptional results.

And injudicious mating, I am convinced, is far more often due to ignorance of the first principles of an extremely intricate science than to any wanton attempt to breed a superlative show dog at the ultimate expense of the race. For the man who would willingly sacrifice health, intelligence, vigour, hardihood, and usefulness in order to produce a paragon of fancy points is fortunately rare. With him it is scarcely necessary to exchange opinions. At the best I class him as a knave; at the worst he is welcome to consider me a fool.

It is with the beginner, whose laudable desire is for the improvement of the race, and whose personal ambition is to breed the best possible specimen of it, that I am here concerned.

To enable him to do this with any chance of success it is essential that he should thoroughly grasp the first principles of the science of reproduction.

Nothing must be left to chance. With a definite ideal in view, he must carefully reason out the arguments for, and against, each step before he takes it.

First, then, let him thoroughly understand the meaning of the word Heredity, which his dictionary will tell him is the transmission of the characters or qualities of parents to their offspring. This principle of heredity has been so widely discussed and considered, and the evidence of its action is so overwhelmingly conclusive, that I may safely postulate its acceptance before dealing with its intricacies. Briefly epitomised, its secret lies in the axiom that "Like begets like."

It has been calculated, and may be taken as a general rule, that any two parents between them contribute, *on the average*, one-half of every inherited faculty, each of them being individually responsible for one-quarter of it. From the four grand-parents comes another quarter, each of them individually contributing one-sixteenth. A close and careful study of the characteristics and peculiarities of these six immediate ancestors is therefore a first essential in weighing the desirability of a contemplated union. Three-quarters of the net result of the mating are thereby taken into account.

Beyond this the beginner must clearly realise that every dog is to be considered, not as the mere progeny of his sire and dam, but as the offspring of all his ancestors. Not until he has thoroughly grasped this fundamental fact can he hope to understand, in its crudest form,

the underlying principle of successful mating towards a definite result.

But this point once reached, he will have convinced himself that the greater the number of like ancestors, and the closer their likeness to one another, the stronger becomes the probability of reproducing the family characteristics. And it is essential to note here that objectionable characteristics are just as surely reproduced as are desirable ones.

At this stage we come into touch with the phenomenon known as Atavism, which is the tendency of animals to throw back to an ancestor more or less remote, instead of reproducing the characteristics of their immediate parents. And so strange is the working of this factor that an animal may inherit, and transmit to its descendants, qualities and characteristics, good or evil, which will suddenly reappear in some of the members of the family after lying dormant for generations. This tendency is to be noted most carefully, and its influence for evil to be perpetually borne in mind and continually guarded against.

Having thoroughly grasped these primary essentials, and satisfied himself of the necessity for a most careful study of ancestry and family characteristics, the beginner may go on to consider the workings of Natural Variability. In its broad sense this may best be understood by remembering that no two puppies—or, for that matter, no two children—born of the same parents are in every respect identical either in character or appearance.



HEREDITY.—FATHER, MOTHER AND SON.

Certain family characteristics are, of course, frequently common to the members of any particular family, but in a host of minor details the individuals of that family differ from one another to an extraordinary extent. Each, in fact, has a personality or individuality of its own. And the breeder's aim must be to combine desirable individualities, and to eliminate those which he considers undesirable.

In this endeavour he has to reckon with yet another phenomenon, known as Prepotency, which is the power possessed by certain animals, whether male or female, of stamping their progeny with some particular characteristic, irrespective of the partners with whom they are mated. Sometimes the characteristic in question is the animal's own, sometimes it is that of his ancestors, immediate or remote. To this factor of prepotency is partly attributable the curious, but well-established, fact that dogs or bitches not quite good enough to take prizes themselves are extraordinarily successful in breeding winners. There are innumerable instances of stud dogs and of brood bitches, quite useless for purposes of exhibition, whose progeny are consistently successful as prize-winners, and who have consequently proved themselves perfect gold-mines to their lucky owners. And it may be noted here that the litter brother, or sister, of a champion is not infrequently a more reliable animal to breed from than the champion itself.

So far, then, we have arrived at certain definite guiding

principles which are to be taken into account in the selection of a suitable mate—namely, heredity, atavism, natural variability, and prepotency. To study carefully the working of these laws, and to take advantage of them for the purpose of reproducing a desired type is the breeder's alphabet. Obviously there are many instances in which they will appear to be antagonistic to one another.

For instance, a stud dog whose fault is an unduly long back may have proved himself a consistent breeder of short-backed stock, though mated with bitches of various sizes. On his own appearance you would unhesitatingly discard his services. But a study of his ancestry proves conclusively that he comes of a short-backed strain. You deduce then that the explanation of his own failing is an accident of atavism or of natural variability, but that he is prepotent to reproduce the short back characteristic of his ancestors. His litter brother may be a champion, whilst he himself has never won a prize. But he may be an invaluable animal to breed from for all that.

This is the point at which the breeder's personal judgment and logical powers of deduction come into play. Some men have a natural aptitude for wise selection, and seem to know instinctively what to reject; some only acquire the art as the result of repeated failures, and many never learn it in a lifetime. But the root principle of the matter is so sound, and so well established, that any observant person of ordinary intelligence may grasp the

primary principles of successful breeding, to the very great advantage of the race of animals in which he interests himself.

Now, the thoughtful man who has attentively followed the arguments hitherto advanced will probably have taken note of the very grave danger which lies in the temptation to resort to consanguinity, or in-breeding, a curse which has done more to ruin popular breeds than any other form of injudicious mating. Undoubtedly the temptation is a strong one; for it is, unfortunately, the shortest possible cut towards the establishment of a desired standard.

On the principle that "Like begets like," it is clear that the more closely the required family characteristics are combined in sire and dam the more certainly may we expect to perpetuate these same characteristics in their offspring, by following the line of least resistance. Therefore, to take a very extreme case, we might argue that if a litter contained a particularly good dog and a particularly good bitch of similar shapes, it would be practically certain that by mating the litter brother and sister we should be able to count upon fixing and perpetuating the desired type.

And so, indeed, we could. But the cost of producing paragons by resorting to close in-breeding is terrible to contemplate. It strikes a blow at the future of the breed, and results in deterioration of all such important attributes as constitution, size, bone, prolificacy, mental

vigour, and courage. For Nature has laid down a line beyond which we may not experiment; and the law of heredity insists upon the reproduction of evil characteristics as surely as good ones. The more closely two animals are in-bred, the stronger becomes the probability of exaggerating a family failing into a deformity, and the greater becomes the certainty of mental deterioration.

The case I have assumed is, purposely, a very extreme one, but the same rule applies, proportionately, to every degree of relationship. Therefore, I do not propose here to touch upon any of the arguments in favour of occasionally resorting to a moderate degree of consanguinity in order to fix a type. Such argument is not for the beginner. Rather let me urge him to shun, as he would the plague, every temptation to mate two animals whose relationship to one another is open to this charge of consanguinity. If he has the slightest doubt in his own mind as to whether they are too closely allied, he is unhesitatingly to decide against the union.

Next to consanguinity the most common evil is that of breeding from immature stock. To mate a bitch at her first season is a practice which should have no toleration from those who have the welfare of their dogs at heart. It is almost incredible that anyone can seriously advocate it.

For common-sense must surely show that an animal herself in need of nourishment and development cannot by any possibility be in a condition to nourish and develop a



NATURAL VARIABILITY.—LITTER BROTHERS.

family of her own. You can't expect to take away from her what she hasn't got! And the enormous tax which the requirements of a healthy family entails upon her strength is not to be over-estimated. To cope with it successfully she must be not only in the full maturity of her own powers, but specially built up and fortified to undertake her heavy task. To the beginner I would here lay down another guiding rule. Never breed from a bitch before her third season, at the earliest. That is quite soon enough.

Of course, it is frequently argued that the fact of breeding a litter from a very young bitch immensely enhances her appearance, developing her in every respect, and maturing her more quickly than could be achieved by any other means. And so undoubtedly it does. But we are not dealing with a mere money-making machine; and, even if we were, present gain means future loss. Nature does not intend an animal to be precociously matured. For simple purposes of exhibition the bitch's appearance may be considerably improved, but her future as a brood bitch is seriously imperilled. And the result of these experiments has been to flood the country with indifferent stock.

The same arguments apply, even when the bitch is fully matured, against breeding from her too often; and it may be accepted as another guiding rule that one litter in a year is as much as may be fairly expected of her.

With regard to a stud dog, it may be, and generally is, advisable that his services be used *once* when he has

reached his twelvemonth. But he should not be put to the stud, with rare exceptions, before he is eighteen months old, and even then he should serve a limited number of bitches during the ensuing six months.

Such is a brief outline of the most essential points for the beginner to bear in mind, and, carefully acting upon them, he will rarely find himself disappointed in results. Moreover, he will have the immense satisfaction of knowing that he has done something towards the ultimate improvement of the breed, and nothing whatever towards its deterioration.

To sum up the propositions of this chapter, we may assume that the beginner has made himself thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the correct type, and has been lucky enough to possess himself of a bitch embodying them. If she is a maiden she will be close on two years old before he contemplates breeding from her at all. And if she should come in season during the late autumn or early winter he will be very wise to let another six months elapse before he mates her.

He is, then, we may suppose, the fortunate owner of a sound, healthy, well-matured bitch of the correct type, a type which it is his object to reproduce—if possible, to improve upon.

He has already acquainted himself, if he be wise, with the characteristics and family history, not only of her sire and dam, but of everyone of her ancestors concerning whom, by diligent inquiry, he can obtain reliable informa-

tion. For he bears always in mind the fact that, by the law of atavism, she may throw back to the peculiarities of her remote ancestors.

If she has already been bred from, he will make himself acquainted with the produce of that mating, noting the results, and carefully taking into consideration the wisdom or otherwise of the previous union. He will further bring into his calculations the evidence of any disposition towards prepotency on behalf of either parent.

With these data at hand, he may proceed with some prospect of success towards the selection of a desirable mate. Bearing always in mind the axiom that like produces like, he will select a dog as much like his bitch as possible in general conformation and character, combining the greatest possible number of her desirable qualifications with the fewest possible of those least desirable.

Into the pedigree of this dog and the family history of its ancestors he will go with the most careful minuteness, and if he find the antecedents satisfactory and the results of previous matings tending in the direction desired, he will next assure himself that the dog's services have not been unduly taxed, that there is no undue degree of consanguinity, and that there is no prepotency on the dog's part towards transmitting undesirable characteristics.

By this time he will find the field narrowed down to the most reasonable proportions, the animals requiring his consideration being extremely few. He need not trouble himself in the least that neither dog nor bitch happens to

be a noted prize-winner; nor need he be alarmed if either happens to be momentarily out of coat or show condition. If both are correct in type and built on similar lines, sound, healthy, and well matured; if there is no undue degree of consanguinity; if he has made reasonable allowance for the laws of atavism, natural variability, and prepotency, and has judiciously followed the line of least resistance, he may fairly count upon the production of a litter very far above the average.

Let him mate the two promising animals then with the knowledge that, however lacking he may be in experience of the details of an intricate science, he has taken every reasonable precaution against the deterioration of the breed. He will probably reap his reward.

But it is sad to reflect how often, for want of a little guidance, the majority of these important considerations are entirely neglected by the beginner.

"Why did you mate your bitch with so-and-so?" you inquire in perplexity of some enthusiastic tyro.

"Because he took his championship in a strong class at Cruft's!" is his triumphant response.

Or, if he be possessed of that little knowledge which is proverbially so dangerous a thing, he will gravely explain to you that, his bitch being an exceptionally small one, he selected the biggest dog he could find. He has a vague idea that the one fault will counteract the other, that the two wrongs may somehow make a right.

Instead of following the line of least resistance, he has

done the diametrical opposite—pitted a bad fault against an opposing one, and left it to Nature to fight the matter out.

Occasionally—very occasionally—he may produce a good dog by a mere fluke. Through the curious working of the phenomena of natural variability or atavism it may chance that one member of an uneven litter is above the average. But this rare exception only goes to prove the rule, and the result is always utterly unreliable as tending in any future desirable direction.

In the brief confines of a single chapter it is, of course, impossible to supply more than a sketchy outline of the fundamental principles which the successful breeder must make it his business to study and to master. Fortunately, in dog-breeding the results are comparatively speedy, and it is possible for a patient man to note the steady improvement of successive generations in the required direction without growing grey-haired in the process.

If, at the first attempt, the result falls short of his expectations, he must set himself carefully to reason out the details to which his failure is attributable, and, profiting by his experience, try again.

Assuming that he has carefully followed one and all of the preceding instructions, he is quite at liberty to vent his virtuous indignation upon the luckless author whose advice he has conscientiously carried out.

Fortified with the knowledge that nothing has been done which can tend in any degree towards the deterioration of the breed, I am well content, as they say in America, to let it go at that!

CHAPTER IV

The Care of Puppies

WE are now to suppose that the bitch has been despatched on a visit to her carefully-selected mate in the security of a padlocked hamper ; that the union has been successfully accomplished ; and that she has been safely returned to her owner.

For the next month she may be treated exactly as usual in the matters of feeding and exercise, no precaution of any kind being necessary so soon as her season has passed. Moreover, as she should be in the very prime of health and condition at this period, there can be no objection to exhibiting her should it be desirable to do so.

But at the end of the fourth week her condition is to be taken into account, and from that date onwards special care and supervision must be exercised. Sixty-three days, including the date of service, is the period of her pregnancy, and the average bob-tail whelps a day or two earlier ; but there is no cause for uneasiness if she goes a few days beyond her time. Many breeders, indeed, consider that puppies are all the healthier under these circumstances.



ONE MONTH OLD.

As the weeks go by the amount of the bitch's daily exercise may be judiciously limited, and it is advisable that she be exercised alone. Racing about with other dogs, and especially jumping, are to be carefully guarded against, the latter being a frequent cause of miscarriage. Fortunately the instinct of the bitch usually warns her against these undesirable exertions, and she will take care of herself. Occasionally she errs in the opposite direction, and becomes too lazy, in which case she should be led out two or three times daily, alone, for slow walking exercise of about a quarter of an hour at a time.

Meanwhile, she must have a plentiful allowance of nourishing food, for a large litter is a very heavy tax upon her strength, and one which is to be carefully insured against.

At the end of the eighth week a suitable spot should be selected in a well-ventilated room, loose-box, or kennel, where she will be quiet and undisturbed; and a comfortable bed prepared for her. This bed should be slightly raised above the ground, plentifully supplied with wheat-straw, and the bitch should be accustomed to sleep in it for a week or so before the arrival of her family. If she shows a tendency to scratch away the straw and to leave a bare space like a nest in the centre, leave her alone; she knows her business.

During the last day or two a dose of castor oil may be administered if she is at all inclined towards consti-

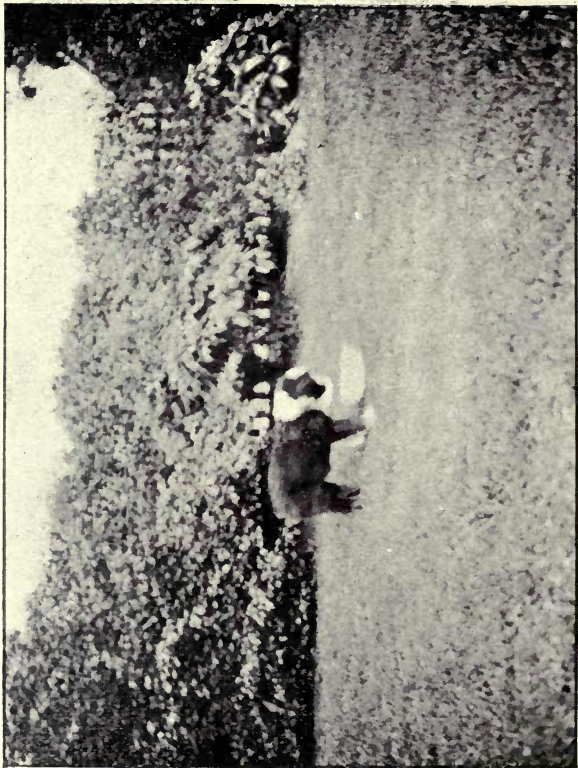
pation, but this is quite unnecessary if she is in normal health, and the less she is interfered with the better.

It will be well for the beginner, at this time, to make arrangements for the services of a foster-mother in case of necessity. There are many reliable men who make a business of supplying them, and whose advertisements are usually to be found in the columns of the dog papers. It is only necessary to write to one of these purveyors, stating the breed of the bitch and the expected date of your requirement. On the receipt of a telegram he will at once despatch a healthy foster. The cost is very small compared with that incurred by the loss of four or five promising, but superfluous, puppies. A healthy bitch is quite capable of dealing with a family of six or seven without inconvenience. If the litter exceed that number it is advisable to call in the services of a wet-nurse.

If a reliable veterinary surgeon is within hail it is also advisable to arrange for his services, in case things should go badly, which is, fortunately, rare. Under ordinary circumstances the mother is best left to Nature and her own maternal instincts.

During the ninth week, everything being in readiness, the expectant mother is to be watched, in case of any untoward complication arising, but otherwise interfered with as little as possible.

When, on one of his periodical visits, her owner finds that the first puppy has made its appearance, he will do



TWO MONTHS OLD, WEIGHT 11½ LBS.

well to go away at once and leave her to herself. He may depend upon it that all is well. An hour or two later the mother will have safely brought her family into the world, and duly attended to their toilet. Then, if there should prove to be too many for her personal attention, let him telegraph for a foster-mother at once. I have known a bob-tail family to number fourteen.

If any serious difficulty should arise, the veterinary surgeon's skilled assistance should be called in at once. Matters are far too serious for the intervention of the amateur. But such cases, fortunately, are extremely rare.

For the first two days the mother may be left as much as possible to her own devices, being plentifully supplied with fresh milk, gruel, Quaker Oats, or Flako, care being taken that the food is never left long enough to grow stale.

On the third day, which is usually the earliest period at which the mother can be tempted to leave her family, the vet. should be in attendance to dock the puppies' tails. Everything being in readiness for the rapid performance of this necessary operation, the mother may be persuaded out of doors for five minutes' exercise.

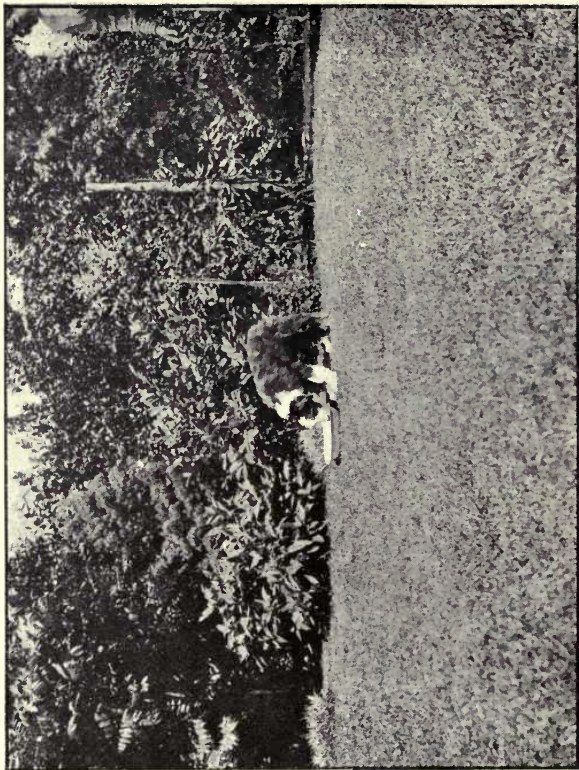
Failing skilled assistance, it is by no means impossible for the beginner to perform the simple operation for himself. All that is required is an exceedingly sharp knife, thoroughly well cleaned with a reliable antiseptic.

Each puppy is to be taken from his bed in turn, and held by an assistant, with his little stern pressed close against a table edge. The operator finds the nearest joint to his body, and removes the remainder of the tail with one sharp, clean cut. The pups are then to be replaced, all traces of the work removed, and the mother called in. She will attend to the tiny wounds at once.

By this time the owner should have had an opportunity of noting the members of the family, their respective sexes and their merits. If the services of a foster-mother have been required, the least desirable puppies may be handed over to her charge. These should be carefully exchanged with her own offspring, of which a couple usually accompany her, until she settles down to the mothering of whatever number may be allotted to her.

On the fourth day, if the bitch exhibits no signs of feverishness, her diet may be increased by the addition of bread well soaked in gravy, and of sheep's paunches carefully cleaned and cooked, with a plentiful supply of fresh milk, so long as she shows no symptom of diarrhœa. This is a very common complaint with whelping bitches, and immediately on its appearance the milk should be discontinued, for persistent diarrhœa will seriously affect her own supply.

Otherwise, at the end of the first week the mother may be put upon a generous meat diet, for the tax upon her



THREE MONTHS OLD. WEIGHT 23 LBS.

strength is now becoming very heavy, and the waste of tissue must necessarily be replaced.

For three weeks from the date of birth the observance of these simple details is usually all that is necessary. About this time the puppies may be given their first instruction in feeding themselves.

This is best accomplished by filling a flat dish with fresh cow's milk. There is no necessity to dilute it, since the mother's milk is by far the stronger of the two, but it may be judiciously sweetened by the addition of a little sugar. Dip the tiny noses in the mixture, and let the puppies lick it off. They won't take long to learn their lesson. In a couple of days they will readily lap it by themselves. The milk may then be supplemented with Mellin's or Benger's food, given exactly according to the directions for feeding human babies.

At this period the mother may be allowed to sleep alone, always having ready access to her family whenever she requires relief.

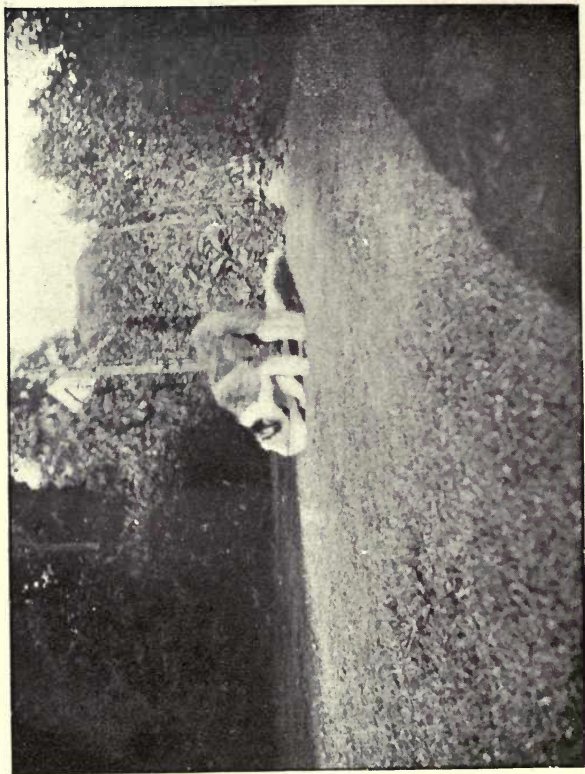
At the fifth week an addition may be made to the puppy bill of fare in the shape of carefully prepared gruel, Quaker Oats, or Flako. This latter preparation is an invaluable variety of food at almost any period of any dog's existence.

About the sixth week the pups are practically independent of their dam, whose milk is rapidly drying up, and whose attentions are only necessary when she suffers inconvenience from its presence. The little teeth and

claws are growing very sharp, and the mother, having supplied an enormous amount of nourishment, is in need of rest and a most liberal diet. About this time the puppies should generally be treated for worms, a complaint from which, with very few exceptions, they always suffer. Fortunately there are plenty of reliable preparations for the eradication of these parasites, in the form of skilfully compounded pills. The dose is to be given according to the instructions accompanying it—usually half a pill on an empty stomach, followed in half an hour by a saucer of warm milk. The result is usually astounding, as is the subsequent rapid improvement in weight and condition.

At two months old further additions may be made to the puppy menu, in the form of paunches, well steamed, carefully cooked, and cut up small, and Spratt's Puppy Rodnim thoroughly soaked in the paunch liquor. Add a sprinkling of bone meal, and keep up a liberal supply of fresh cow's milk. All the puppies may now be treated again for worms.

Up to this period they should be fed five times a day, and the more their fare is diversified the better they will enjoy it. Nothing should be left to get stale. When they have eaten all they want the bowls should be removed until the next meal-time. It is essential to see that each individual gets his fair share, for a greedy pup has scant chivalry for his weaker brethren, and the latter speedily go to the wall if not attended to.



FOUR MONTHS OLD. WEIGHT 34 LBS.

Meanwhile the puppies, like plants, require all the sun and air that they can get, with plenty of liberty to develop freedom of action. The best possible form of exercise is to allow them to run about until they are tired out, and then put them to bed. If possible their run should be on concrete, asphalt, or, at any rate, on gravel, which helps to set their little feet into shapely and compact pads. Unlike plants, however, they require no rain, and special care must be taken to prevent them from getting wet. If they should accidentally do so, they are to be at once carefully dried with a towel.

During these early months of their existence the pace at which they grow and develop in bone and substance is quite extraordinary, and it is at this period that they specially repay the most generous diet and the most watchful individual attention. They increase prodigiously in weight from week to week, and their future, as regards size and constitution, very largely depends upon the treatment they receive at this early stage.

At three months old the number of their daily meals may be reduced to four, and about this time their mother will generally begin to lose her coat. She must be fed as liberally as possible, and will have ceased to take any interest whatever in her progeny. If any of the puppies are to be sold they are now fully able to fend for themselves, and are quite ready to be despatched to their new home.

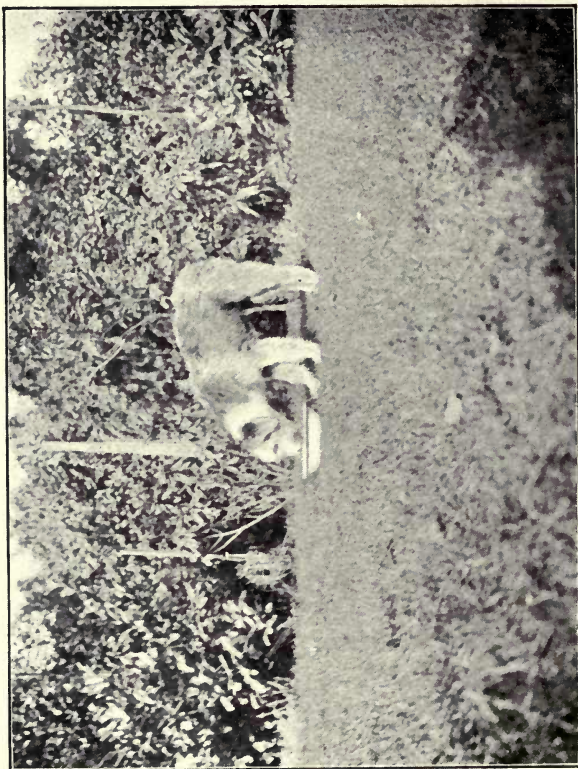
Somewhere about the fourth month the pups begin to

get their second teeth, and the cutting of them will be greatly facilitated by giving them large round bones to gnaw at. But the bones must be large; small splintering ones are not only useless, but most dangerous. They may now be put on three good meals a day. The cutting of the teeth is not infrequently accompanied by eczema, but this simple complaint need give no cause for uneasiness. It is often Nature's safety valve, and averts a far more serious complication in the form of fits.

Hereabouts the youngsters generally enter upon the hobbledehoy stage of lanky legginess, and during the next two months they are at the most difficult age in which to judge of their ultimate merit. They vary so extraordinarily from week to week as to puzzle the most experienced breeder; first one, then another, outstripping his relatives, and again yielding place to them.

During this time, if their destination is the show ring, they should be thoroughly accustomed to the use of collar and chain. They will speedily take kindly to these accessories when they become associated in the puppy mind with a walk beyond the confines of the kennel yard. The pups should be exercised in company with their elders; and so strong is the force of example that they will soon learn to conduct themselves like old dogs.

They should be frequently handled and overhauled by strangers, walked and trotted backwards and forwards for examination, and taught to stand, and to show themselves, at their best in company with other dogs. By the time



FIVE MONTHS OLD. WEIGHT 44 LBS.

they are required for exhibition they will not be handicapped in the ring by shyness and awkwardness.

They may also be accustomed to the travelling hamper. The simplest plan is to put them inside, get a friendly tradesman to give them a drive round, and have their evening meal awaiting them on their return. They will soon grow to enjoy it, and save much trouble later on.

I do not propose here to encroach at all upon the veterinary department in the treatment of disease. In matters of medicine a little knowledge is so dangerous a thing, that the beginner will do well to study this branch of the subject at first hand, from such admirable works as those of Edward Mayhew and A. J. Sewell, F. S. Barton, and other recognised authorities. Such minor troubles as worms, eczema, and diarrhœa he will speedily learn to cope with; and he should learn to use a thermometer, and to note that the normal temperature of the average dog in health, taken in the bowel, is about 101.5° . On the appearance of any untoward symptom he will be wise to call in skilled assistance at once.

With puppies, of course, he must be ever on the watch for that most terrible of kennel scourges, distemper, and at the first sign of its appearance the puppy should be at once isolated in a warm, but thoroughly ventilated room, and a reliable veterinary surgeon sent for immediately.

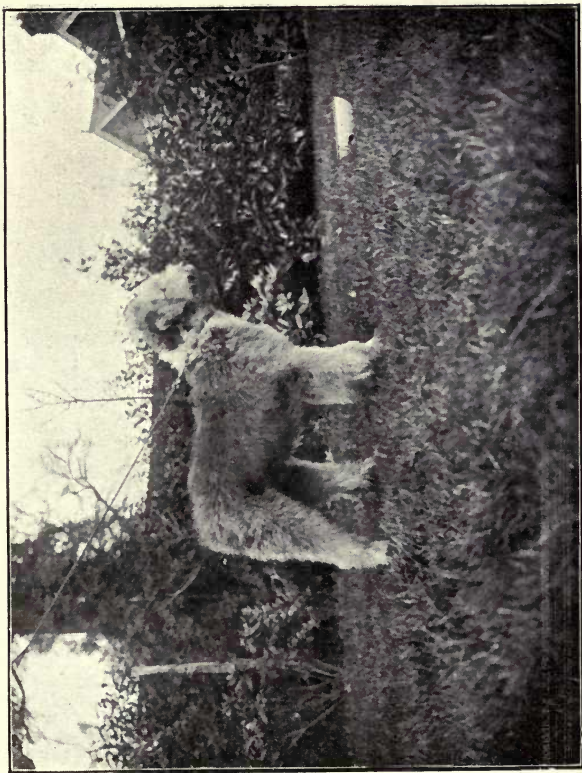
Of late years experiments have been made in the direction of inoculation against this disease, and many

breeders pronounce the results to be extremely satisfactory. Indeed, I am acquainted with one who is so sanguine as to believe that we shall live to see the day when a certificate of inoculation will be a compulsory adjunct to the entry form of a Kennel Club show. When this, his dream, has come to pass we should be fairly within sight of the Canine Millennium!

Meanwhile, if we cannot insure our pups against distemper, we can at least build up their constitutions to encounter the disease, should it arise, with reasonable hopes of success. And I am sanguine enough to hope that the careful observance of the simple teachings of this chapter may accomplish so much for the beginner.

The practical results of their application are illustrated here in the development of a puppy photographed and weighed from month to month. This development is by no means abnormal, save for the unremitting care and watchfulness of his mistress; and the close attention of the beginner is invited to the illustrations, for purposes of future reference and comparison.

At six months old the pup is rapidly framing towards adolescence, and may now be safely passed into another chapter.



SIX MONTHS OLD. WEIGHT 51 LBS

CHAPTER V

On Kennel Management

IT is almost impossible to over-estimate the importance of a bob-tail's environment and the conditions under which he is kept.

To retain him in his best form there are four absolute essentials. He must be properly fed, properly housed, properly exercised, and properly groomed.

If these essentials are neglected it is surprising how rapidly a valuable animal may deteriorate. If they are carefully attended to it is even more surprising how quickly an apparent weakling may be developed into a good dog.

Given suitable surroundings, the sheep dog is by no means an exacting animal, and he repays proper care and attention to an extraordinary degree. Nine times out of ten the nervous dog and the shy feeder will be found to have been improperly managed in their youth, for neither failing is in any way characteristic of the breed, though both, once acquired, are difficult to eradicate.

As regards feeding. For the adult dog in health two

meals a day are sufficient; and of these the first or morning meal should be a comparatively light one. The second or evening meal should be a hearty one, practically as much as the animal cares to eat.

From personal experience I recommend three staple foods:

1. Spratt's cod-liver oil biscuits, or Spratt's meat biscuits.

2. Spratt's hound meal, or Rodnim.

3. Flako, prepared by the Uveco Cereals Company. And they should all be obtained direct from the makers.

In using them it is to be remembered that the daily bill of fare should be diversified as much as possible, for sheep dogs, in common with their masters, appreciate variety in their diet.

Each one of these staple foods may be given either dry or soaked, which gives six changes to begin with; and by adding an occasional proportion of white or brown bread soaked in gravy, table scraps, green vegetables, onions and potatoes, sheep's heads and paunches, the combinations are almost endless. The paunches should be very carefully cleaned and either cooked or scalded, and both heads and paunches thoroughly well mixed with the other ingredients.

This diet will generally be found ample and varied enough to keep the healthy bob-tail in the best of show condition.

Special care is to be given to the utensils in which



AT HOME.

the food is presented. These must always be very carefully cleaned, and the food is on no account to be left in them long enough to get stale or sour. Whatever portion of his meal the dog may leave uneaten ought always to be removed and never given to him again. In a large kennel there will always be found plenty of candidates for it; in a small one it must be disposed of and fresh food supplied for the next meal. On no account is the food ever to be given hot, or even warm. All cooked food must be allowed to get quite cold before being presented.

The importance of a liberal supply of green vegetables is, I think, too often overlooked, and its excellent effect upon the blood generally under-estimated. It is only necessary to observe the avidity with which a bob-tail diets himself upon fresh green grass, whenever occasion offers, to enforce this point. The dog's instinct in this, as in other matters, is frequently sounder than all his owner's theories.

These green vegetables, such as cabbages, turnip-tops, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and spinach, are to be just as carefully cooked and prepared as though intended for human consumption. All food, in fact, should be of the best quality obtainable if the best results are to be attained, and any attempt at keeping down expenses by supplying inferior qualities is only false economy in the long run.

From time to time bones may be given to the dogs

to gnaw, though it is advisable that the recipient be allowed to tackle his delicacy in solitude, for he brooks no interference when engaged upon it. But the bones should be big round ones, which are good for the teeth and promote the flow of saliva. Small splintery ones, as already noted, are not only useless, but dangerous.

The first meal may be given between ten and eleven o'clock, and the second between six and seven; but plenty of latitude is here allowable to suit the special requirements of kennel and household alike. For the adult dog in health the daily bill of fare may be varied on some such lines as these:

Monday.—A light morning meal consisting of a couple of handfuls of dry Rodnim; about seven hours later, a hearty evening meal of Spratt's biscuits, well soaked and mixed with boiled cabbage and gravy.

Tuesday.—A morning meal consisting of a small portion of Flako, with a small addition of well-cooked sheep's paunches, carefully cleaned and cut up small. A substantial evening meal of dry Rodnim with green vegetables and potatoes.

Wednesday.—The morning meal may consist simply of a big beef or mutton bone, with a fair proportion of meat adhering to it, which will sometimes occupy the dog for an hour or more. In the evening he will be ready to do justice to a big bowl of dry biscuits, broken up small and well mixed with table scraps and gravy.

Thursday.—In the morning a small portion of dry Flako, mixed with part of the contents of a sheep's head. In the evening a liberal meal of Rodnim, soaked in the sheep's head broth, with vegetables, and the bones of the sheep's head as a savoury.

Thus it is possible to go on from day to day, never giving the same meal twice consecutively, providing the dogs with the nourishment they require and enjoy, without allowing them to tire of any particular form of it.

Meanwhile, and at all times, they are to be allowed a plentiful supply of clean, fresh water, always easily accessible, and renewed just as often as required.

For every ordinary purpose this will be found a generous and liberal diet, on which the average bob-tail will flourish and thrive.

But the man who loves his dogs and carefully studies their idiosyncrasies will speedily find that individual cases call for individual treatment. It is astonishing to note how widely two animals, born of the same parents and brought up under identical conditions, may differ in their tastes. Thus it will often be found that one turns up a supercilious nose at any form of food unless it be well soaked and almost liquid, while his litter brother rarely makes a hearty meal except on dry food.

Every breeder who aspires to develop an Old English Sheep Dog to the most perfect animal form attainable—

an ambition which has my heartiest sympathy—should make it his study to note the peculiarities of each individual animal under his charge. This study is a fascinating one, well worthy all the care and trouble he can devote to it. To develop a shy feeder into a dog of healthy appetite is an achievement of which he may well be proud. And this is one of the details to the observance of which may be attributed the wonderful success of many lady breeders.

To digress for a moment, I may here record my personal conviction that the average man is, broadly speaking, a far better judge than the average woman of the essentially desirable characteristics of dog and bitch for the purposes of breeding; that he more often possesses the instinct for judicious selection, and that he is less impulsive, and consequently more reliable, in forecasting the probable results of an apparently desirable union. It is doubtless a mere matter of temperament, and the few brilliant exceptions serve to prove the rule.

But in the details of judicious feeding and upbringing, from puppyhood to adolescence, the average woman easily excels him. She is quicker to note the peculiarities of individuals, she is more patient in ministering to their requirements, and she possesses that kindly instinct which takes real pleasure in helping on the weakling and the laggard. The invalid at once enlists his mistress's sympathy, and if unremitting care and nursing will serve to pull him through, he is in safe hands.

Thus much parenthesis; now to resume. Of equal importance with the bob-tail's proper diet is the item of his suitable housing; and here it may at once be pointed out that a little common-sense will serve to secure for him, at a minimum cost, the requirements too often lacking in the most picturesque and expensive kennels.

The main points to be considered are thorough ventilation, freedom from draughts, and absence of damp. A disused cow-shed may be made to combine these essentials just as completely as a high-priced kennel of the latest and most artistic design.

The ventilation should be so arranged as to allow for a reasonable current of air well above the level at which the dog lies, and a number of small apertures will better achieve this result, without the possibility of draughts, than one or two large ones. At the lower level these draughts may be cheaply and easily defied by the simple expedient of covering over cracks with strips of well-tarred felt, or even of strong brown paper.

The bench on which the dog sleeps should be raised a foot or so above the flooring, and if the latter can be made of concrete or cement so much the better. But it is not essential. A thick layer of peat moss spread beneath the wooden bench will serve the purpose equally well. In very cold weather a bed of clean wheat straw should be provided; at other times the dogs do best on the bare boards. Cleanliness is of the greatest importance, and the

kennel should be frequently washed and scrubbed, a disinfectant, such as Jeyes' Fluid, Izal, or Sanitas, being liberally applied.

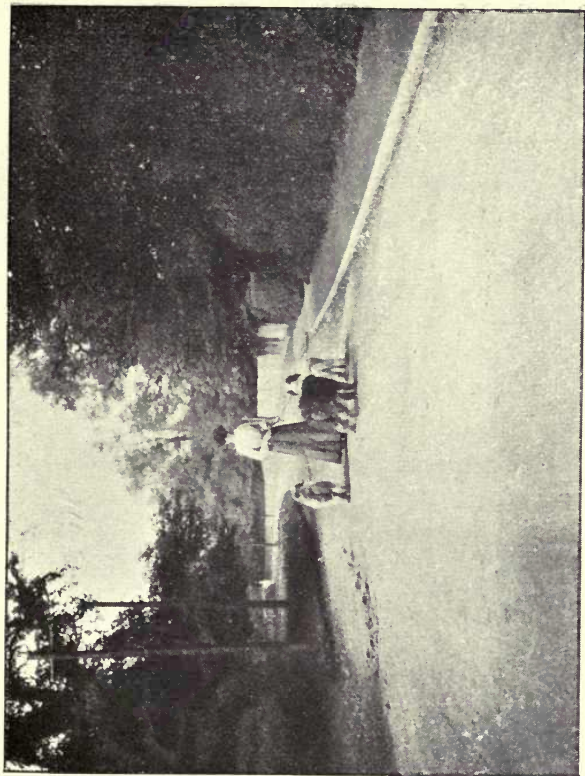
If circumstances permit, each dog should occupy his sleeping apartment alone. He will thus get better ventilation, with less possibility of any unnoticed infection, and no chance of quarrelling with his bed-fellows.

A bob-tail should never be chained up to a kennel under any circumstances, if it can by any possibility be avoided. But if it is absolutely impracticable to keep him otherwise, his owner will do well to discount the evil by fastening the chain to a large ring, which slides freely along a wire fixed at some distance from the kennel. The dog may thus enjoy a certain amount of liberty without actual freedom.

Next, with regard to exercise. To the Old English Sheep Dog this is an all-important matter. For it is never to be lost sight of that he is primarily an outdoor animal, and though he will readily accommodate himself to circumstances and make a most excellent house dog, his natural inclination is for unlimited freedom and fresh air.

If it be possible to provide him with an open yard where he may roam at will, he is at his happiest, and brought up so he will develop and retain that delightful liberty of movement so characteristic of his breed.

But in the matter of outdoor exercise, as in so many other respects, individuals differ to an extraordinary degree. Some require, and enjoy, far more than others.



AT EXERCISE

One dog will think nothing of trotting a dozen miles behind a trap or bicycle, which his kennel-mate could not with comfort follow for five hundred yards. One dog, again, revels in a stretching gallop to and fro at the top of his speed, racing backwards and forwards with the keenest enjoyment, while his brother is content to jog placidly at his master's heel. And it is quite a mistake to suppose that violent exercise is essential or necessarily beneficial. Just as the human being benefits more by a steady tramp of two or three miles than by sprinting a hundred yards at top speed, so may the dog.

Careful study of the individual's idiosyncrasies is a necessity, and common-sense the only guide. But the broad rule may be accepted that a bob-tail thrives on all the outdoor exercise he can get, within reasonable limits, and without undue fatigue. When he comes home very wet and muddy, rough dry him from head to stern with a coarse towel, and put him into his kennel with a bed of clean, dry straw; for his heavy coat, though wonderfully weather-proof, retains a lot of moisture when thoroughly saturated.

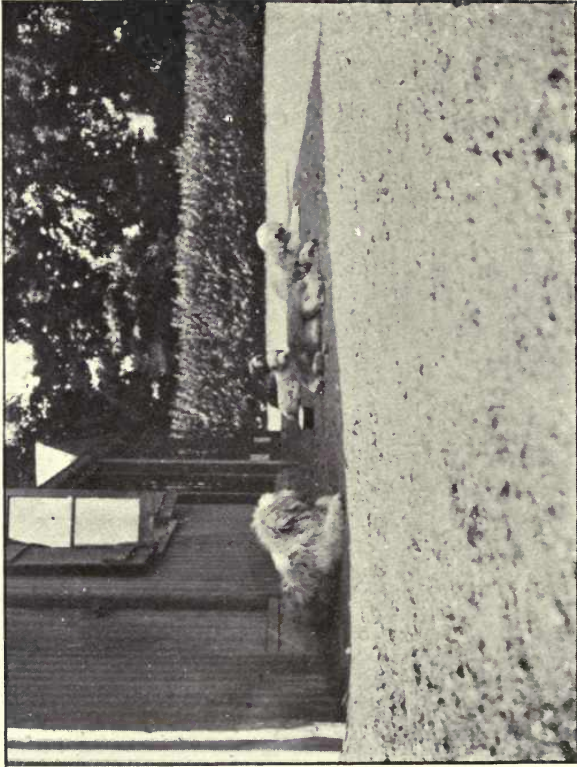
With regard to grooming. If a sheep dog is to look his best it is necessary that his shaggy coat be constantly attended to and carefully kept in order. A pair of small stiff dandy brushes are the most useful allies, and the coat is always to be brushed against the grain—that is to say, upwards, and from tail to head. A comb is to be used just as little as possible, and then with the greatest

discretion. The object is to dispose the coat to the greatest advantage, not to drag it out. For this purpose a blunt, rather broad-toothed one is by far the best.

To keep a coat in perfect order is an art of itself, because the texture and quality vary so much that no rules can be laid down which will apply to all. But generally speaking the neck and shoulders are specially to be kept free from tangles and matting, and the general ideal to be aimed at is to retain the thickest possible undercoat, particularly on hams and quarters, with the strongest, longest, harshest texture above it that is attainable. To achieve this without allowing the coat to get matted, and yet without pulling out too much of it, requires very careful and skilful handling. If you do too much the coat gets thin and silky; if you do too little it gets matted and knotted into clotted lumps. Constant practice alone will teach the perfect mean.

From time to time the bob-tail needs a bath, and well repays the attention. It is not a difficult operation, and only requires the application of a few common-sense principles.

First, he must have it on an empty stomach. Never bathe him within three hours of his last meal. See to it that the water is only lukewarm, and not much deeper than the animal's knees. The larger the bath the better. A plentiful supply of Spratt's dog soap, and if possible a second utensil filled with clean water of the same temperature, complete the requirements.



AT EASE.

Lift him into the bath, and soak him thoroughly all over, with the exception of head and face, which are to be left to the last. Starting with his tail, lather him copiously all over with soap, and work the lather in with the hands right down to the skin, treating each leg and foot in turn until every inch of him has been gone over.

Rinse out all the soap with the fresh water which you have at hand, and finish off his head and face as quickly and thoroughly as you can. Drain off the bath, squeeze out what moisture you can, and let the dog jump out.

Then, with rough towels dry him as thoroughly as possible, devoting special attention to the ears, which often retain the moisture longest. Give him a scamper on the grass if you can, and let him have his dinner, which he will tackle with exceptional appetite.

Next, brush him up and put him in a kennel with a clean straw bed, where he will sleep like a top. When you let him out next morning his enhanced appearance will surprise you.

We have now touched, I think, upon the main points of successful kennel management as regards the average dog in normal health. Experience alone will teach the modifications which special cases require, but for the use of the beginner essentials may be briefly summarised.

Study the individuality of each animal, suiting his diet and exercise to his own particular requirements.

Give two meals a day, at intervals of about six or seven hours, the second being as liberal as possible. Diversify the food as much as you can.

Allow the dog all possible freedom, and plenty of exercise without undue fatigue.

Keep him constantly supplied with clean, fresh water.

Provide him with a well-ventilated sleeping place, free from damp and draughts, and let him sleep alone.

Keep him well groomed, without dragging out his undercoat on the one hand or allowing his coat to mat or tangle on the other. Your object is to attain the heaviest, harshest coat he can carry.

Never cow or frighten him in the least, but keep him under proper control and let there be no question as to who is master.

Make a pal of your bob-tail, and you have the most charming companion in the world.

CHAPTER VI

On Exhibiting

“IF you want to ruin a breed,” sneers the cynic, “make it popular as a show dog.”

And the arguments which he advances in support of his contention have a sufficient spice of plausibility to allow the shallow epigram to pass for wit. Undoubtedly he can adduce proofs, difficult indeed of refutation, that many breeds have, in the acquirement of particular *show points*, deteriorated in others no less essential.

But the balance generally readjusts itself. Some day there comes along an independent judge, with the courage of his own opinions and the true welfare of the breed at heart. After careful consideration he displaces a supposed invincible champion in favour of an unknown dog, because he realises that the novice possesses the true characteristics of his breed without the exaggerated peculiarities which have become the fashion of the moment.

Strong in the certainty of his convictions, he will readily explain the reasoning which led to his decision, and he is perfectly prepared to stand or fall by it. He

is a man of character, and it does not disconcert him in the least that his judicial services are not enlisted again for at least a twelvemonth.

Such a judge deserves a Kennel Club Victoria Cross for his courage. What he actually gets is generally unprintable!

There follows a fierce discussion in the canine press, always amusing, usually abusive, and frequently ungrammatical; but the good seed is sown, and speedily takes root. Thinking men, when the first storm has blown over, gather up the threads of argument advanced on either side and weigh the net result. Oftentimes the sequel is a revision of the club standard. And within a couple of generations the fashionable exaggerations begin to give place to all-round excellence once more, and the breed is in a fair way to recover its lost ground. Then the courageous judge is asked to officiate again, wisely accepts, proves himself to be impartial and consistent, and becomes a power for good in the canine world.

This is the point at which the cheap sneer of the cynic breaks down in practice.

It is not the fact of making a breed popular as a show dog that ruins it; it is the injudicious selection of specialist judges that temporarily sets it back.

For the specialist judge is frequently selected unwisely, and on totally insufficient grounds. It may be that he is the lucky owner of a champion, which he has bred

by a fluke. It may be that he is the owner of several champions, acquired by purchasing winners, merely as an accident of wealth. In neither case has he proved himself to be a competent judge.

But the power for good or evil which he temporarily wields is far-reaching in its future effects. The mere fact of his awarding a championship to a dog ensures a number of applications for its stud services from beginners who have no knowledge of the first principles of the science of breeding, but whose ambition it is to produce a winner. Thus the effect of a mistake on his part may affect the future of the breed for several generations.

The injudicious selection of specialist judges and the tendency to exaggerate show points are the weapons with which the cynic attacks the popular breed upon the show bench.

But, on the other hand, the arguments in favour of exhibiting are manifold, and they are founded, moreover, on a far firmer basis.

Competition must ever tend in the direction of improvement by the mere sordid fact of stimulating that commercial instinct to which, as "a nation of shopkeepers," we are supposed to be peculiarly susceptible.

Conceding the correctness of our label, we must obviously admit that as a mere matter of pounds, shillings, and pence it is to our pecuniary advantage to produce a better animal than our rivals. On this, the very lowest ground admissible, dog shows certainly tend

towards the improvement of a breed by weeding out its weaklings.

Moreover, apart from the question of money, there is implanted in most human breasts a spirit of healthy rivalry. The sportsman enjoys a keen competition with the best which another sportsman can produce. And this spirit of rivalry reacts directly upon the welfare of the breed.

If a dog is to win and to maintain high honours in the show ring, and if he is to transmit his own good points to his descendants, he must necessarily be kept under specially favourable conditions. He must be judiciously fed and exercised, properly looked after, protected against disease, and carefully mated. In the case of exhibition dogs these essentials are necessarily studied, and *mésalliances* are watchfully guarded against.

Consequently the incentive to achieve the ever elusive ideal must always be a potent factor in the attempt to produce healthy dogs of the correct type. And the show ring is the only ground on which, for purposes of comparison, their merits may be tested.

Thanks to the excellent work accomplished by the Kennel Club, the conditions under which our modern dog shows are held are, on the whole, extremely satisfactory. Moreover, they are steadily improving.

It is always easy for the irresponsible outsider to cavil at details and to clamour for reforms, while the authorities at headquarters advance step by step towards the goal



RICHMOND SHOW, 1904.

they have in view. But the irresponsible outsider rarely pauses to consider the debt he owes them, and the utter chaos which would obtain if their beneficent sway were withdrawn. Before these lines are in print they will have swept away the vexatious distinctions which have hitherto existed between shows held under Kennel Club licence and those held under Kennel Club rules, and we shall be enabled in future to exhibit our dogs under one simple and comprehensive set of regulations, which the beginner may easily master.

We may now proceed to consider the conditions to be observed by the intending exhibitor.

Before he can show his dog at all the animal must be registered as his own property at the Kennel Club. If this has not been done he must write to the secretary of the Kennel Club, 7 Grafton Street, Bond Street, for a registration form. This form he will fill up according to the instructions accompanying it, and return to the secretary with a registration fee of half-a-crown. If the dog is already registered in the name of a former owner, it must be transferred to himself. In this case he will write for a transfer form, fill it in, and return it, also with a fee of half-a-crown.

When either of these transactions has been entered in the books of the Kennel Club, the owner of the dog is free to exhibit it, and he may next write to the secretary of the show at which he wishes to compete for a schedule.

This schedule he will do well to study carefully,

devoting special attention to the regulations which govern the show, to the Kennel Club rules under which it is held, and to the definition of classes, all of which he will find clearly set forth for his guidance.

Next, he may turn to the section devoted to Old English Sheep Dogs, and decide upon the classes in which he will enter his dog or dogs. Generally speaking, the beginner will do well to enter only his best, always remembering that the animal which looks like a champion in his own yard may be only a second-rate dog when pitted against the cracks of his breed, handled by experienced exhibitors.

In fairness to himself, then, he will enter the best dogs he owns; in fairness to these dogs, he will show them in the best condition he possibly can.

The sheep dog classes dealt with, he may go on to consider the variety and local classes in which his exhibits may have a chance, and the list of special prizes for which they are eligible to compete.

These matters thoroughly digested, he may proceed to fill in the entry form which always accompanies his schedule, devoting to the task all possible accuracy and his very best handwriting. Otherwise he will probably be annoyed to find an incorrect nomenclature printed in the show catalogue as a tribute to his indifferent calligraphy.

He will enclose the exact amount of his entry fees, sign his name and address in full, and post the entry form to the secretary of the show within the specified time allowed him.

Attention to these simple details will save an enormous amount of unnecessary work to some hard-worked official, whose hands are quite full enough already.

The entries duly made, there remain several days for final preparations.

In preparing a bob-tail for exhibition the question of the bath is most important. The appearance of a light-coloured dog is enormously enhanced by washing, but the process, unfortunately, has a tendency to soften the texture of his coat, which should always be as harsh as possible.

The beginner, therefore, has to choose between two evils. If he bathes his dog too long before a show the animal will possibly get dirty again in the interval. If he bathes him too late, the texture of the coat will be considerably softer than its wont.

Selecting the lesser of these evils, the exhibitor will be wise if he wash his dogs some two or three days before the show, which will give the coat time enough to resume its usual harshness. Any dirt which may accumulate on light-coloured legs, feet, heads, or chests can be subsequently removed by the use of a little whitening, which may be well rubbed in and thoroughly brushed out again before the animal goes into the show ring.

It frequently happens that a bob-tail, running loose on sandy soil after a bath, gets his legs so much discoloured that a suspicious judge may mistake the tint for an objectionable shade of tan. This discolouration

may be easily removed by whitening, and there can be no objection whatever to its use for mere purposes of cleaning, provided always that it be so thoroughly brushed out that no trace of it remains. Use it exactly as you would use soap, of which you would never think of leaving any in the coat, and for exactly the same purpose.

This point is all-important, because the rules of the Kennel Club wisely decree that a dog may be disqualified if it be proved that any whitening has been used, *and remains*, on any part of the dog. The necessity for this excellent rule is very obvious.

On no account whatever is any preparation to be used for the purpose of altering the texture of the bob-tail's coat. Get him just as clean as you possibly can, but set your face sternly against any suspicion of "faking."

Before the show day arrives the beginner will have provided his dog with a well-fitting collar, not loose enough to be slipped, nor tight enough to cause inconvenience. A plain round leather one is the best, because it may be so arranged as to be quite invisible under the dog's heavy coat, while a broad, flat one detracts from the shapeliness of a well arched neck. Ornamentations in the shape of brass studs are bad, having a tendency to catch in the hair and to pull it out.

The beginner will also have supplied each of his exhibits with a steel chain, strong but light, having a hook at either end and at least three swivels.

Meanwhile the executive of the show will have sent him exhibitor's passes and removal tickets, and metal tallies bearing the respective numbers of his exhibits. These tallies he will attach to the dogs' chains, about a foot from the collar, where the numbers are clearly visible.

If possible the dogs should travel to the place of exhibition in well ventilated dog-hampers, with plenty of clean straw to lie upon. They will thus avoid a lot of unnecessary worry on the journey, and they will keep far cleaner than they could possibly do on the floor of a railway carriage or guard's van.

The exhibitor should be particularly careful to arrive at the show in good time, and to have his exhibitor's pass ready for inspection at the door. As soon as his dogs have undergone the ordeal of the veterinary examination, he will do well to bench them at once.

In the numbered space allotted to each he will chain up the animals most carefully, passing the free end of the chain through a ring which he will find at the back of the bench, and fastening the hook to the wire of the side partition in such a manner that the dog cannot jump down from the bench or get into trouble with his neighbour. He will then do well to offer each dog a drink of water in the tin receptacle supplied to every bench. They will probably relish it after their railway journey.

This done, he will be wise to go and inspect the ring

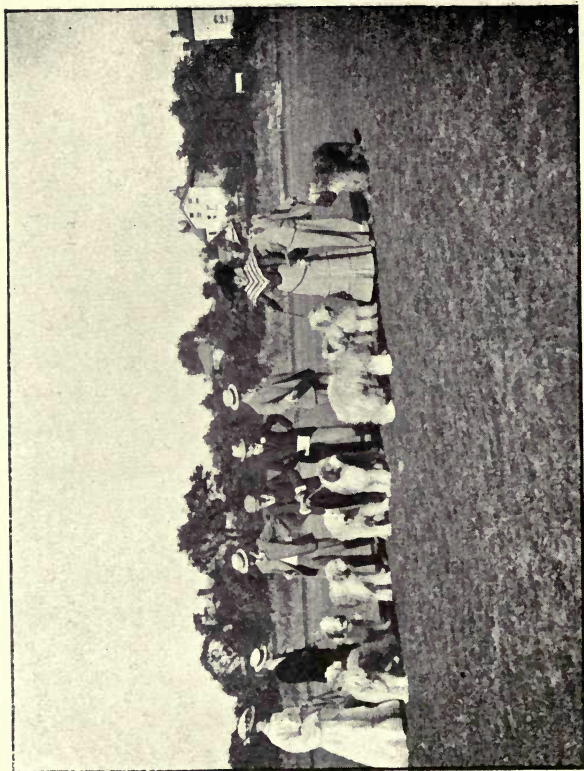
in which his exhibits are to be judged, and to ascertain the hour at which that ordeal is likely to take place.

About a quarter of an hour before the fateful moment he may set about his final preparations. His object now is to put his exhibit into the ring in the very best form possible.

This is one of the rare occasions on which he may use a comb all through his dog's coat, removing any symptoms of matting or tangles, and subsequently brushing up the whole coat from stern to head. If any whitening has been used for cleaning purposes, he will see that every trace of it is thoroughly brushed out. He will then be ready to go into the ring as soon as his class is called.

One of the ring stewards will supply him with a numbered card, which he will attach prominently to his person. He may fasten it to a button of his coat or stick it in his hat-band, or wear it in his mouth if he likes, so long as the number is plainly visible to the judge and the spectators at the ring side.

From this moment the beginner is to devote the whole of his attention to his dog, to allow it to be seen to the best possible advantage, and in leading it round the ring to keep it between himself and the judge. He will do exactly as that official tells him, and will always refrain from making any remark whatever to a judge, except in answer to the latter's questions. So soon as the judging is over he will lead his dog from the ring without any



REDHILL SHOW, 1904.

comment, and, if not required in another class, will at once return him to his bench.

That is really all there is in it. But at one time or another of his career the exhibitor will receive from the old hands a thousand little hints and wrinkles, whose value he may be left to weigh for himself. From the clever division he will hear whispers of innumerable little tricks of the trade; but, believe me, there is only one worth mastering, and it is this:

Earn for yourself a reputation as an exhibitor who never did a shady thing in his life, who shows his best dogs in their best form, and who wins or loses like a gentleman.

And as time goes on you will be surprised to find, when the competition is very keen and close, and there exists a doubt in the judge's mind, how often the benefit of it will come your way. Even a dog judge is sometimes human. And that's the only ring-side trick worth learning.

The judging over, the beginner will be free to devote his attention to feeding and watering his exhibits. He may also make his arrangements for their removal in the evening.

When a show lasts more than one day it is very often advisable to remove a dog from the place of exhibition at night, and to return him in the morning. This can be done by paying a deposit of a sovereign, which is returned when the dog comes back.

A bob-tail will generally be found to sleep more com-

fortably in his master's room, even in a strange hotel, than he would do on the show bench. Moreover, he has an opportunity for a run both night and morning, which he will thoroughly appreciate.

It frequently happens that dogs go off their feed entirely during a show, and can scarcely be tempted to touch anything. But there are two appetising meals which should be tried if they decline everything else, one of which will often prove successful. These are: half a pound of the best beef-steak, raw and cut up small, or a well fried sheep's liver.

In this chapter it is assumed that the owner accompanies his dogs to the show and exhibits them himself. This the beginner should always do. The animals naturally fret less and show better than they would in the hands of strangers.

Apart, however, from considerations of kindness and common-sense, it is not, of course, essential for the owner to be present. He may, if he so please, despatch his dogs to the fixture in their hampers. They will be duly benched, fed, exhibited in the ring, and subsequently returned. But they won't enjoy the experience.

So much for the ordinary routine of the ordinary shows. Beyond these there are certain fixtures selected and duly advertised by the Kennel Club, known as championship shows. At these latter a challenge certificate is awarded to the winner in the open class of certain specified breeds. Sometimes this challenge certificate is

awarded to the best of its breed in the show, irrespective of sex; sometimes the best dog gets one and the best bitch another. These details are duly announced in the schedule.

Exhibitors are wont to talk loosely of a dog winning his first championship, which is a misleading expression. What he actually wins is his first challenge certificate. The winning of three such challenge certificates under three different judges at three different championship shows entitles him to the honourable prefix of champion. This is a proud distinction, the more to be appreciated if the owner has bred the animal himself.

With regard to the general question of exhibiting, it may be remarked that bob-tails, like other animals, human and canine, have their prejudices. Some of them detest the atmosphere of a dog show, and are so thoroughly upset by it that it takes them several days to recover their equanimity.

Others thoroughly enjoy it; and I have known a bob-tail who would jump into his hamper of his own accord as soon as the lid was lifted, and was never more happy than when duly installed upon his bench.

As a general rule it is advisable, especially so in the case of puppies, to wash the dogs over with some disinfectant on their return home before allowing them to mix with their kennel mates. There are several reliable preparations which may be used for this purpose, such as Izal, Jeyes' or Sanitas Fluid, diluted with water as directed in each

case. It is also well to give an aperient, for dog shows have a tendency to upset the liver.

There remains one further point for the beginner to attend to after the show is over, and that is the checking of the description of such exhibits as have been placed above his own. It may be that they have been, through inadvertence, incorrectly described and entered, in which case they can be disqualified.

The definition of classes, as already stated, is clearly set down for him in the schedule, and is easy enough of reference. But we will assume, for purpose of argument, that his dog has taken second prize in the novice class at a show held under Kennel Club rules, and that the schedule defines a novice class as being for dogs that have never won a first prize at a show under Kennel Club rules prior to a certain date.

We will further assume that the exhibit which has beaten his own had already taken a first prize under these conditions.

The beginner must then lodge an objection against the winner in writing to the secretary of the show within twenty-one days, clearly stating the grounds for his objection, and enclosing a fee of a sovereign. If his objection is considered frivolous he will forfeit the money, and probably be more careful in future. If it be upheld his sovereign will be returned, the winner will be disqualified, and his own dog will be awarded first place.

As a matter of courtesy, if time permits, he should

first communicate with the owner of the winning exhibit.

But it is his bounden duty, on public grounds, to go through with the matter, and to see that prizes fairly won are duly awarded.

The competition at modern dog shows is keen enough already, and the beginner cannot afford to condone the negligence of others.

CHAPTER VII

On Judging

SOME time in the career of the successful exhibitor there may arrive a red-letter day, on which for the first time he is invited to officiate as judge; and provided that he fully realises the responsibilities of the position, and feels that the experiences of his apprenticeship have qualified him to give an authoritative opinion, he will do well to accept the invitation.

For a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind. From the day when he first pins on his badge of office, and takes possession of the bob-tail ring, his criticisms on future judges will moderate surprisingly.

Their task is heavier than he supposed. It is so easy to walk round the benches with a catalogue in hand and to criticise the judgment of the expert by the light of previous placings. It is not even difficult, in the course of the afternoon, to compose a critical paragraph or two for publication in some doggy journal, conclusively proving the inconsistency of the awards. That is cheap work enough.

But it is a very different matter to find oneself sur-

rounded by a dozen first-rate dogs, distinguished only by their number tallies, and to place them methodically and consistently in the order of their respective merits.

I take it that one's first sensation is an overwhelming surprise at the magnitude of the task, and one's own temerity in undertaking it. I hope that the second is a conscientious determination to acquit oneself honourably in the ordeal.

To this end the beginner must dismiss entirely from his mind the personalities of the exhibitors, and the opinions, friendly or unfriendly, of the critics at the ring side. He is on his probation as a judge, and he must stand or fall by his decisions. Moreover, he must stand or fall alone. If he is to succeed he must necessarily possess three qualifications, namely, impartiality, consistency, and method.

Whatever his judgment may dictate, he must give it impartially and consistently. Whatever routine he elects to observe, he must carry it through methodically.

It is possible that he may reverse recent decisions, and that he will reap his meed of hostile criticism. It is more than probable that disappointed exhibitors will resent his methods and question his qualifications. All that is in the day's work, and matters not the least. Provided he is impartial, consistent, and methodical, he has the making of a judge.

So much by way of generalisation. Let me now proceed to address myself to the embryo judge in

person. Take heed, my friend, of this well-meant advice!

Before your arrival on the scene of action, you will have had the opportunity of making yourself acquainted, by means of the schedule, with the various classes calling for your judgment, and the specials which you will be required to award. These details you will master thoroughly, ranging them clearly in your mind, and remembering in which classes, if any, the sexes are mixed, and what specials, if any, will follow simply on the class awards.

Arrived at the show, you will proceed at once to the secretary's office and ascertain where your ring is situated, and at what time it will be available for your breed. From the secretary you will receive your judging book, and you may devote whatever interval remains to its careful study. It will show you under each class the catalogued number of every entry, and which of these entries are in more classes than one. By mastering this information you may find it possible to save yourself time and trouble later on.

Meanwhile, on no account go near the bob-tail benches, and on no account be tempted to look at a catalogue. You don't want to see or hear anything of a sheep dog until he comes up for your judgment.

So soon as your ring is ready take possession of it without delay, subject to the convenience of the exhibitors. For instance, if the morning is so far gone that they



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would prefer to be judged after luncheon, meet their wishes. Remember that they have done you the honour of paying for the privilege of your opinion, and in common courtesy suit your arrangements to their convenience. But, if everyone is ready, the sooner you get to work the better.

Take your place in the ring, then, and tick off the exhibits by their numbers in your judging book, until the whole of the class is before you or the absentees have been satisfactorily accounted for.

From the first keep your eye on the dogs. Never mind who is at the other end of the chain; that has nothing whatever to do with you. And strive above all things to discharge from your mind any previous acquaintanceship with or recollection of individual animals.

Your business is to decide upon their relative merits to-day, and you would probably achieve this result with the greatest success if you had never seen any one of them before. To try and remember their previous records is perhaps the most fatal mistake you can possibly make, if you really aspire to be a judge in the word's best sense.

Having accounted for all the entries in your first class, you may now proceed to take the fullest possible advantage of the size of the ring, which is usually much too small. To do this you will begin by clearing out every unauthorised person. No one except the exhibitors and

the ring stewards has any business inside—a point upon which you must firmly insist. The presence of outsiders in the ring is a frequent cause of complaint, and justly so. Their conversation distracts your attention, and their presence curtails the space at the disposal of exhibits.

Having cleared your ring, let the dogs be led round slowly in a circle, of which you are the centre. Don't follow one animal, however much his shapely form appeals to you. Keep your eye on a fixed point, and carefully note each individual as he passes it in turn. If your impressions accumulate slowly, let them go round twice, thrice, or half a dozen times, until you have gained a general impression of their relative outlines.

This done, you may proceed to overhaul each individual thoroughly, systematically, and methodically, registering in your mind meanwhile the sum total of the impression you receive from him.

Allow his handler plenty of latitude in showing him off; go out of your way to give each animal the chance of doing himself justice. Your object is to consider each dog at his very best.

Start now with his head, and handle his skull and ears, taking note of the shape of each; look to the colour and expression of his eyes, consider the shape of his jaw, and examine his teeth. Pass on to his neck and shoulders, and down his chest and forelegs to the feet; pick them up, carefully examine them, and feel the pads. Raise him by the collar, and gently drop your hand, noting how he

stands when subjected to this simple test. Now feel the depth of his brisket, the spring of his ribs, and the stoutness of his loin, passing onward to the quarters, hocks, hind legs and feet. Lift the hindquarters, and see exactly how he drops upon his feet by nature.

Do all this intelligently and methodically, carefully noting the texture of the coat as your hands travel over every inch of it. Carry in your mind, meanwhile, the ideal sheep dog of your dreams, and take mental note of the points at which the anatomy of your subject falls short of your standard of perfection.

Now bid his exhibitor lead the dog slowly from you and back again, carefully scrutinising his action the while; and lastly let him run up the ring and down again, as far and as fast as space permits. Ascertain his age, and set him aside for the moment, passing on to the next dog, and proceeding exactly as before. Good, bad, or indifferent, give each one the self-same treatment and the self-same care.

If your class be a very large one, you may now safely proceed to the elimination of the undesirables. Don't allot V.H.C. cards indiscriminately. As you increase their numbers so you decrease their value.

Having dismissed the undesirables from the ring, you may now fairly reckon on having reduced your task to the consideration of about half a dozen. These you may proceed to handle carefully once again, correcting or endorsing your impressions of their merits, and pitting

animal against animal as you further reduce them to their final order.

Pick out two of them, and judge them side by side, comparing them most carefully according to your ideal standard, remembering always the relative values of the points laid down by the club for your guidance.

Your object now is to weigh their respective faults, and balance them one against the other—often an extremely difficult task. But if you bear in mind the maximum number of points allowable for each portion of the dog's anatomy, you have at least a practical working standard by which to institute comparisons.

If you make No. 1 better than No. 2, discard the latter for the moment, and pit No. 1 against No. 3. If he still holds his own, judge him against No. 4, if necessary, until you are absolutely certain that he is the best dog in the ring. Now proceed on the same lines with No. 2, and so on until the first four animals stand out clearly in your mind in their relative order of merit.

Produce your judging book and pencil, and mark them off, according to their numbers, first, second, third, and reserve, and allot the necessary "Very highly commended," "Highly commended," and "Commended" cards according to your judgment. The judging book contains three duplicate slips—one for yourself, one for the secretary, and one for the award board in the ring. Hand these latter to the ring steward, and proceed to your next class.

If you are dealing with a mixed class of dogs and

bitches, ascertain the sex of each exhibit as you handle it, and divide the sexes, placing all the dogs on one side of the ring and the bitches on the other. Judge the dogs first and place the first three, then the bitches and do likewise. Now pit the best dog against the best bitch, and proceed exactly as before, until you have satisfied yourself as to the four best animals out of the six, and their respective positions.

Finally, deal with the special prizes; and don't be misled into supposing that these will necessarily follow the previous awards. Study the wording carefully and be methodical. If any doubt as to the donor's meaning arise, thresh it out carefully. Pit dog against dog as occasion may require, whatever your mental opinion may be. Don't let anyone hurry you; the ring is yours until your last award is made. Proceed systematically to the end, until you have logically solved each problem to the very best of your ability.

This part of your duties completed, proceed to the secretary's office, and make it your business to see that the award cards are placed over the benches with the least possible delay.

Then, if you be a wise man, you will catch the first train home and wait, with what philosophy you may, for the printed criticisms of your efforts in the columns of the canine press.

Bearing these simple rules in mind, you are as likely as not to acquit yourself satisfactorily at your first

attempt, though subsequent experience alone can determine your qualifications to rank as a successful judge. In the course of that experience your eye will become trained to note the little tricks of veteran exhibitors. They are usually so obvious as to defeat their own object.

For instance, when you notice that a dog is persistently held up by the collar so that his forefeet barely touch the ground, you may reasonably assume that he does not stand too well upon them. Bid his handler loose his head then, and see what you shall see.

Again, if you observe an exhibitor perpetually working away at some particular spot with brush or comb, you may conclude that he is not improbably attempting to gloss over a doubtful point. Look to that particular spot, and you may possibly discover something you had not previously noted.

Remember always that it is the exhibitor's object to hide the dog's faults, while it is the judge's business to detect them. Bearing this in mind, you will allow each handler to make the very best of his exhibit, and keep your eye upon him while he does it.

Sometimes you will find it a difficult matter to handle a dog at all. It may be that he is young and ring-shy, and resents a stranger's interference. It may require all your persuasion to make friends with him—a curious point of personality in which some judges are notably successful. Be very patient, and do your best to win his confidence. For this purpose carry in your pocket a few small pieces

of cooked sheep's liver. Most dogs are very partial to it, and many will lift their heads to sniff at it when no other consideration will induce them to carry themselves properly and to show themselves at their best.

Be very chary of making allowances, either for want of coat and condition or anything else which is not as good as it might be. The exhibitor's object is to show his dog to the best possible advantage. If he enters into competition with animals better conditioned than his own he does so entirely at his own risk. You are there to judge the animals as you find them, not to estimate what they were last month or what they will be next year.

But there are, of course, occasional exceptions to this, as to every other rule. For instance, if you make two dogs so very equal that you cannot decide which is the better, and you find on inquiry that one is six years old and the other only ten months, you will be perfectly justified in placing the puppy first. Because, despite his very heavy handicap, he has fairly held his own.

Never award equal firsts or seconds or thirds. It is a cheap way of getting out of a difficulty, and an unsatisfactory one. One animal is always a fraction better than the other, under an ideal standard. Make it your business to find the fraction.

As a final piece of advice, let me urge you to set your face most sternly against any attempt at conversation in the judging ring. If you enter into a discussion with one of the exhibitors, you will probably create a very unsatis-

factory impression amongst the others. To enter into a discussion with an outsider is extremely discourteous to them all.

Above all things, from first to last be impartial, consistent, and methodical.

By a careful observance of these suggestions you will find yourself fairly equipped for your *début*, and you will at least steer clear of the commonest mistakes of the beginner. It is quite beyond my power to make you a good judge, but it is very probable that I may have guarded you against earning for yourself the unenviable stigma of being a bad one.

And it is by no means impossible that the ultimate result of my lecture will recoil upon myself.

For it may chance that I shall some day have the pleasure of submitting my own exhibits to the ordeal of your judgment. It may even chance that you will award to some priceless champion of my own breeding the barren honour of a "Commended" card.

Assuming always that the process by which you reach this deplorable result is impartial, consistent, and methodical, I promise in advance that I shall not complain.

But—don't forget to catch that first train home!

A GALLERY OF CELEBRITIES

CHAPTER VIII

A Gallery of Celebrities

FOR permission to use the illustrations which accompany this chapter I take the opportunity of thanking the owners who have been so kind as to place them at my disposal.

It is naturally not my intention to institute comparisons of any kind between the animals which they represent. For my present purpose it is sufficient to say that each one of them, in his day and at his best, earned for himself a distinctive right to rank as a celebrity.

With the data supplied for his guidance in preceding chapters, the beginner may proceed to criticise and compare their respective merits at his leisure. He will be wise to devote his special attention to a study of their pedigrees, noting the strains to which they owe their ancestry, and tracing them onwards to subsequent developments in succeeding generations.

For the rest, the illustrations may be allowed to speak for themselves.

WALL-EYED BOB

Date of Birth, Pedigree, and Breeder unknown.

IT is a thousand pities that nothing reliable is known of this dog's antecedents, but the most diligent inquiry has failed to unravel the mystery of his origin.

Rumour credits him with having once changed hands in a public-house for a sovereign, and he subsequently became the property of Mr. J. Thomas, and finally of Mrs. Fare Fosse.

Although he is not distinguished by the coveted title of champion, the accident is merely due to the fact that he flourished before the present championship rule came into force.

He was last exhibited at the Botanic Show in June, 1898, when he carried everything before him, though his age must have been at least fifteen. He died shortly afterwards, retaining his wonderful coat and iron constitution to the last.



WALL EYED BOB.



CHAMPION SIR CAVENDISH.

CHAMPION SIR CAVENDISH

*Born May 29, 1887. By Sir Caradoc ex Dame Ruth.
Breeder, Dr. Edwardes-Ker.*

THIS excellent dog, the property of Dr. Lock, did much to revive the interest in the breed, of which he was for many years a shining ornament, and it is interesting to note the quaint resemblance his picture bears to that of the Reinagle painting of 1803.

From 1888 to 1894 there were but few classes for sheep dogs at leading shows in which Sir Cavendish's name was missing from the winning list. Amongst the more notable of his successes may be recorded the following :

First (Open Class) at Warwick, Barn Elms, Swansea, and Birmingham in 1888 ; and at Gloucester, Cardiff, Brighton, and Crystal Palace in 1890.

First (Challenge Class) at Liverpool, Cruft's, Bath, Manchester, Kennel Club, Birkenhead, Gloucester, and Crystal Palace in 1891 ; and at Bath, Leeds, Manchester, Kennel Club, Crystal Palace, and Cruft's in 1892.

In 1893 and 1894 he was first prize winner at Birmingham, at Preston, and at Portsmouth.

CHAMPION WATCHBOY

*Born July, 1890. By Stracathro Bouncing Bob ex Nellie II.
Breeder, Mr. R. Abbott.*

HIS name stands out so prominently in the pedigrees of many modern winners that it is specially regrettable that the only available portrait of this good dog should be totally inadequate to represent him.

The following list, by no means exhaustive, includes some of his important wins :

1892. First. Northern and Midland Sheep Dog Club Show.

1893. First. Liverpool.

„ First. Northern and Midland Sheep Dog Club Show.

„ First. Manchester.

„ First and Challenge Prize. Preston Collie Club Show.

1894. First. Manchester.

„ First. Leeds.

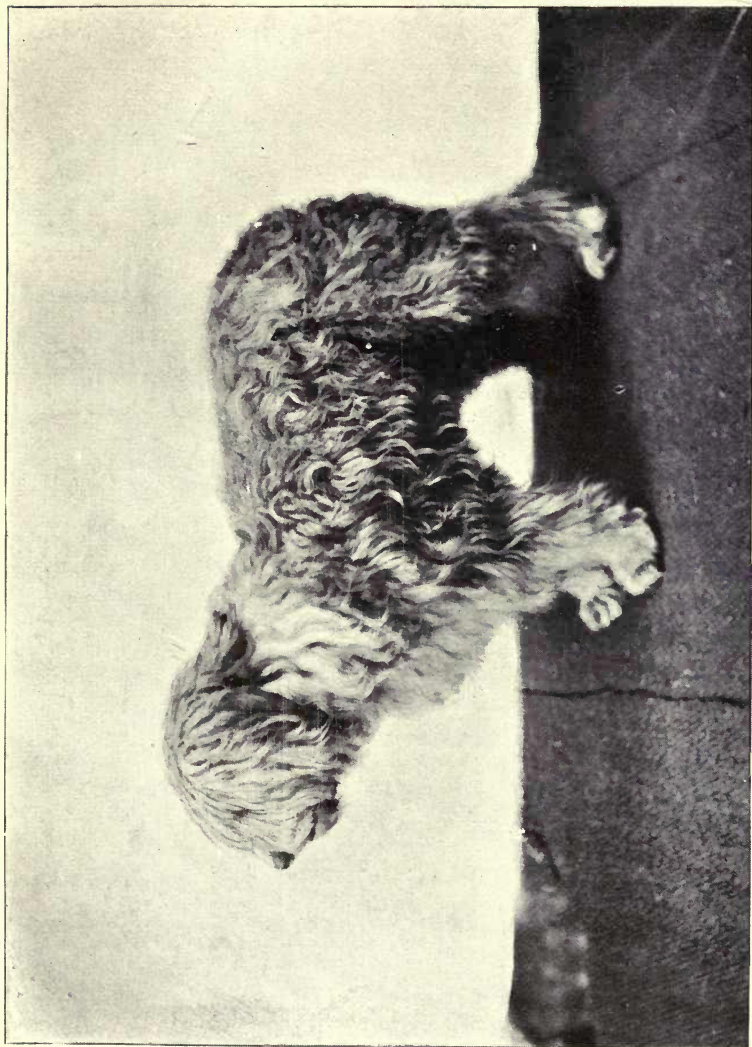
1895. First and Challenge Prize. Manchester.

„ First and Challenge Prize. Northern and Midland Sheep Dog Club Show.

1896. First and Challenge Prize. Liverpool.

„ First. Northern and Midland Sheep Dog Club Show.

„ First. Manchester.



CHAMPION WATCHBOY.



HARKAWAY.

HARKAWAY

Born June 8, 1891. By Grizzle Bob ex Rachel.

Breeder, Mr. J. Thomas.

THIS noted dog, the property of Mr. H. Dickson, was a well-known winner in his day, and, apart from his successes on the show bench, proved himself an exceptionally good sire, numbering among his offspring such excellent animals as Cupid's Dart, Sir Hugo, and Orson.

He was specially remarkable for his excellent coat, which he transmitted to many of his descendants; indeed, the "Harkaway coat" is still easily recognisable in subsequent generations from this strain.

CHAMPION VICTOR CAVENDISH

*Born January 1, 1897. By Young Watch ex Grey Queen.
Breeders, Messrs. Thickett and Shaw.*

It is worthy of note that Champion Watchboy plays an important part in this dog's pedigree, having sired both Young Watch and Grey Queen, and undoubtedly transmitted many of his own excellent qualities to his grandson. The latter's illustrious ancestors also include Champion Sir Cavendish, his maternal grandsire.

Victor Cavendish, in addition to innumerable firsts and specials, is credited with the following Challenge prizes: Kennel Club, 1899; Earl's Court, 1899; Crewe, 1900; Aquarium, 1900; Alexandra Palace, 1900; Cruft's, 1901; Aquarium, 1902; Kennel Club, 1902; People's Palace, 1903.

He took forty-two first prizes and twenty-five specials at twenty-eight shows, winning the Old English Sheep Dog Challenge Cup at the club's show on three separate occasions.



CHAMPION VICTOR CAVENDISH.



CHAMPION ROUGHWEATHER.

CHAMPION ROUGH WEATHER

*Born August 27, 1900. By Sir James ex Daphne.
Breeder, Mrs. Fare Fosse.*

STILL in the prime of his youth, this well-known dog has already accounted for upwards of 150 first and special prizes, which include several for the best of any variety, and more than one for the best dog in the show.

His challenge certificates were gained at Cruft's, 1903; Kennel Club, 1903; Botanic, 1904; Birmingham, 1904.

The first three of these, awarded by three different judges, have entitled him to his place in the honourable list of bob-tail champions.

CHAMPION DAIRYMAID

Date of Birth, Pedigree, and Breeder unknown.

OF unknown parentage, this typical bitch came from the county of Surrey into the hands of Mr. William G. Weager in 1891, and died, in the same ownership, some four years later.

She was practically invincible in her day, and her many wins included championships at the Kennel Club, Birmingham, and Cruft's shows in 1892 and 1893.



CHAMPION DAIRYMAID



CHAMPION LADY SCARAMOUCHE.

CHAMPION LADY SCARAMOUCHE

Born April 14, 1893. By Champion Watchboy ex Lady Cavendish. Breeder, Dr. Lock.

OF notable pedigree—for Lady Cavendish was daughter of the champion Sir Cavendish—this celebrated bitch was exhibited for several years by Mr. H. Dickson with quite exceptional success.

Amongst her long list of firsts and specials the following challenge prizes are included:

- 1895. Bristol.
- 1896. Cruft's and Crystal Palace.
- 1897. Cruft's and Crystal Palace.
- 1898. Crystal Palace.
- 1899. Birmingham.
- 1901. Richmond.

CHAMPION DAME BARBARA

Date of Birth, Pedigree, and Breeder unknown.

FOR many years the property of Sir Humphrey de Trafford, president of the Old English Sheep Dog Club, this bitch earned her title of champion at the following shows:

Crystal Palace, 1898; Birmingham, 1898; and Liverpool, 1899.

During these two years she was a well-known winner at many of the leading shows.



CHAMPION DAME BARBARA.



CHAMPION FAIRWEATHER.

CHAMPION FAIR WEATHER

Born May 10, 1898. By Sir James ex Birthday.

Breeder, Mrs. Fare Fosse.

THIS wonderful bitch made her *début* at Cruft's Show in 1899 as a nine months old puppy, and started on her triumphant career by winning every prize for which she was eligible to compete. Despite the strength of the opposition, she took first prize in puppy, novice, limit, and open classes, and secured her first challenge certificate, in addition to eleven special prizes. At Crewe three weeks later she accounted for three more first prizes and a second challenge certificate, and had become a full-blown champion when little over a year old.

At two years old she had won over fifty first prizes, as many specials and cups, and no less than nine championships.

The total number of these latter now reaches nineteen, of which she won six in 1899, at Cruft's, Crewe, Bristol, Kennel Club, Liverpool, and Earl's Court; five in 1900, at Cruft's, Crewe, Sheep Dog Club Show, Alexandra Palace, and Kennel Club; three in 1901, at Cruft's, Kennel Club, and Birmingham; two in 1902, at Cruft's and Kennel Club; two in 1903, at Manchester and Kennel Club; and one in 1905, at Cruft's.

In addition to these she won the premiership for the best of her breed at the Botanic and also at Earl's Court shows in 1899, at the Botanic and Alexandra Palace in 1900, and again at the Botanic in 1903.

In the intervals she has found time to bring up four litters of puppies, which include many first prize winners—a remarkable canine example of the "Strenuous Life"!

The total number of first prizes, specials, cups, and medals which she has placed to her credit runs into many hundreds, and she easily holds the record for her breed as a prize-winner.

No bob-tail, past or present, has hitherto approached the number of her successes.

CHAMPION BOUNCING LASS

*Born June 18, 1899. By Young Watch ex Peggy Primrose.
Breeder, Mr. E. Y. Butterworth.*

ANOTHER direct descendant of Champion Watchboy, this bitch will go down to posterity as one of the best bob-tails ever seen. She was purchased from her breeder by Mr. C. W. Macbeth, and won her first three challenge certificates at Hinckley (1901), Manchester (1902), and Aquarium (1902).

She subsequently became the property of Messrs. Tilley, and added championship wins to her score at the Crystal Palace, Birmingham, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Cruft's, Leamington, and Richmond.

In 1902 she won the Brewers' and Lord Mayor's Cup at Birmingham, and in twelve months accounted for nine cups, eleven medals, and over 100 first prizes.

On eleven occasions she took special prizes for the best exhibit in the show, and was sold to America for a record price in 1903.

That same year she took two firsts, a championship, and the Vanderbilt Cup in New York, repeating the performance in 1904.

She is now engaged in upholding the honour of the Old Country in the show rings of the New.



CHAMPION BOUNCING LASS.



CHAMPION DOLLY GRAY.

CHAMPION DOLLY GRAY

*Born April 26, 1901. By Stylish Boy ex Dolly Daydream.
Breeder, Mr. F. Travis.*

ALTHOUGH she is still short of four years old, and may reasonably be expected still further to improve, this bitch, the property of Messrs. Tilley, can easily hold her own in the best of company. It is therefore worthy of note that she, again, has a strong infusion of Watchboy blood in her veins. He is grandsire of her dam on the paternal side, and grandsire of her sire on both sides.

Dolly Gray's record of challenge certificates already includes the following :

Cruft's, Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham, and People's Palace, in 1903 ; Cruft's, Manchester, Blackpool, Bristol, Crystal Palace, and Birmingham, in 1904.

At the Agricultural Hall in 1904 she took Cruft's International Bowl for the best non-sporting dog in the show.

She has won 130 first prizes, 200 specials, and seven cups, on nine occasions being awarded the special for the best exhibit in the show.

Considering her age, the record is one of which her owners may well be proud.

CHAPTER IX

A General Summary

SO far as the beginner is concerned, I think it may now be reasonably claimed that the ground has been fairly covered. It merely remains to sum up as concisely as may be the general hints embodied in the foregoing chapters.

Learn by heart the Club's description of an Old English Sheep Dog, and the relative values of his points. They may not be quite perfect, but they are probably far better than any you could frame yourself.

Study carefully the dogs which consistently win under the best judges, and compare them with one another and with inferior animals. Use your intelligence and cultivate your sense of proportion.

Note the good points of other people's dogs, and the weak points of your own. You need not necessarily publish them to the world.

Don't buy a bob-tail on the owner's recommendation alone. He is not always an impartial judge.

Study the first principles of the science of breeding, and proceed on a logical plan towards the attainment

of a definite result. It is far more important to breed litters consistently above the average than to produce one champion by a fluke.

Never breed from unhealthy or immature stock, or from animals closely related. It is not actually a criminal offence, but it ought to be made one. Moreover, you will probably lose money by it.

Devote every possible care and attention to your puppies when you get them. Study the temperament and requirements of each individual, and remember that the future success of the adult depends upon the present treatment of the infant.

Give your dogs plenty of good food and fresh water, plenty of air and exercise, comfortable kennels, and as little medicine as possible.

Keep a kennel book, and record in it every item of interest. It will prove invaluable for subsequent reference.

Make yourself thoroughly acquainted with all the regulations of a show before you exhibit, and fill in your entry forms legibly and correctly; otherwise you will become deservedly unpopular with people who have to take more trouble than you have done yourself.

Exhibit the best dogs you own in the best condition you can. Show them like a sportsman, and win or lose with them like a gentleman.

Never speak to a judge in the ring, except in answer to his questions. Your opinion is of no value whatever to him, but his is all-important to you.

Don't exhibit a dog unless you can accompany him to the show yourself, or get a reliable friend to do so for you. Don't exhibit young puppies at all.

Above all things, don't suppose when you have read this book that you have mastered all there is to learn about bob-tails. You haven't. Nor have I.

If you prove successful, as I sincerely hope you may, you will be fully justified in heartily congratulating yourself.

If you don't—which is not impossible—you will be quite at liberty to abuse me.

And so, my patient friends, I take my leave, wishing you, one and all, the very best of luck.

THE END.

