

THINGS EVERY DOG-OWNER SHOULD KNOW

BY
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"JAN, SON OF FINN," "PETER OF MONKSLEASE"
"EVERYBODY'S DOG BOOK," ETC.

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' You goodly folk of all degrees
Who like, or actually keep, dogs—
Bloodhounds, Red Setters, Pekingese,
Fox-terriers, Dandie Dinmonts, Sheepdogs,
Wolfhounds—no matter what the breed,
Whether you're novice or old-stager,
You'll thank me if you buy and read
A book by A. J. Dawson (Major).

And, if at times, the author's touch
Waxes so deeply analytic
That wagging tails convey as much
As *Burleigh's* headshake in the *Critic*,
I care not. Dog-books not a few
I've read, and his just beats them hollow;
His dogs are dears, and all they do,
As he relates it, I can swallow.'

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY	9
I. SOME DOGGY HOMES	14
II. THE HAPPY DECISION	24
III. THE ACTUAL QUEST	36
IV. THE CHOICE.	46
V. THE NEW BOY	56
VI. MEAT AND DRINK	66
VII. THE HOUSING QUESTION	76
VIII. MANNERS MAKYTH DOG	87
IX. ABOUT DOG SHOWS	100
X. THE NURSELINGS	110
XI. THE WEANERS	120
XII. GOOD HEALTH	130

APPENDICES

I. A POSTSCRIPT ON DOG-BREEDING	141
II. A POSTSCRIPT ON PARASITES	151
III. A POSTSCRIPT ON DOGGY ORGANISATION AND PEOPLE	156

ILLUSTRATIONS

	FACING PAGE
1. AIREDALE <i>Frontispiece</i>	
2. PEKINGESE	30
3. SEALYHAM	42
4. SCOTTISH TERRIER	54
5. BLOODHOUND WHELPS	68
6. BLOODHOUND IN KENNEL	84
7. BLOODHOUND PUPPIES	122
8. ROUGH-HAIRED TERRIER	132

THINGS EVERY DOG-OWNER SHOULD KNOW

INTRODUCTORY

ONCE upon a time there was a Man who sought his daily food, not by way of shops, or offices or warehouses, but on the hoof and on the wing. He became skilful in the task, first, because he found that failure meant hunger, and, again, by virtue of the fact that life brought him almost as much experience of being hunted as of hunting. He hunted well, because, perforce, he acquired skill in evading hunters; and at first he hunted alone; not for fun, but for food.

His Wife, on the other hand, though not entirely without experience of being hunted, was by habit a home-stayer. She tended the cave to which the Man had brought her when they first came together; and, as the Man's hunting often took him far afield and occupied much time, she suffered occasionally from loneliness.

One day, when she was feeling like that, a Dog came to the mouth of the cave and offered her his companionship; with a certain modest timidity, but yet trustingly, and in most friendly fashion. The Woman welcomed this new Friend, and as evidence of good will gave him food, for which he returned effusive thanks. His precise antecedents are not known, because this happened a long time ago, before the Kennel Club began to register

pedigrees; but he was quite unmistakably a Dog, with nothing of the Wolf, the Dingo, the Coyote or the Jackal about him; as was proved by the fact that when, shortly after the Woman had fed him, some wolves came sneaking and questing thievishly about the cave, the Dog, without waiting for any word from the Woman, leapt to his feet, with hackles erect and lips drawn back, and drove those Wolves away with fleas in their ears and marks of his fangs on their shoulders. Whereat the Woman knew he was a true Friend, and made much of him accordingly.

When the Man returned from his hunting that evening, he was greatly surprised and interested to find the new Friend, and raised no objection to what his Wife had done, although he was by habit and principle an exceedingly jealous guardian of his cave. The Dog, for his part, recognised at once that the Man was master there. He showed much diplomatic deference, as well as the most unqualified trust and absence of reserve, in the way in which he saluted the Man, placed himself entirely at his disposal as a new Friend and associate, and voluntarily made proffer of himself, body, mind and spirit, in modest partnership. If he did not (as yet) display the extremest form of doggy *abandon*, and roll on his back, at all events, he crouched invitingly before the Man, forearms well extended, haunches curved high, a living note of interrogation.

Curtly, with none of the Dog's *abandon*, but yet quite good-humouredly, the Man accepted the proffered partnership. However, when the Dog followed the Woman into the cave to join them at supper, the Man growled at him pretty sharply.

"Outside!" he said. "You wait till we've finished. Your place is outside, anyhow. Go and lie down there, and wait." And, turning to the Woman, the Man

explained: "He's all right. I've nothing against him. But understand, when all's said, he's only a Dog. He's not to live inside."

Often afterwards the Man repeated that their new Friend, despite his obviously admirable qualities, was 'only a Dog.' The woman admitted it readily enough, albeit adding occasionally that she did not quite see the point of the 'only'; to which the Man replied: "Oh, well, he *is* only a Dog." So in the end, they both let it go at that; the more readily since the Dog accepted the decision affably, took up his position at the mouth of the cave contentedly, and, with unfailing friendliness and partner-like loyalty, was invariably on hand to help when trouble arose, to warn the Man and the Woman of threatened danger of any kind, to drive off intruders, and, above all, with tireless enthusiasm and great skill and cunning, to assist the Man in his hunting.

You may have noticed that, while the scores of millions of that Dog's descendants have never since wavered in devotion to men and women alike, they have observed a special kind of chivalrous friendliness toward women; even women who are perfect strangers to them. That is partly because the Woman in the cave took exception to the Man's use of the word 'only'; and partly, too, because it usually fell to the Woman to feed the dog, to bind up his wounds, and generally to care for him; and, by the same token, that it was mostly the Man who gave him his orders, forbade him this and that, and at all times enforced observance of the law upon him, with pains and penalties where necessary.

The Dog worked with the Man, and took his ease with the Woman. He loved and served them both equally; and never, never, never did he bear the smallest atom of malice against the Man, either for the use of that word 'only' or for the visitations of pains and

penalties, nor yet even for the Man's occasional blunders in hunting, and in the administration of the law.

These things happened such a long time ago that the Kennel Club has no exact record of them, and so the details have come to be given different form in different parts of the world. Some authorities say that the Man's name was Adam; and perhaps it was. Others again declare that, soon after the Creation, a crack appeared across the earth's surface, and that Man remained on one side of it, and all the other animals were separated from him by the chasm. Whereupon, noticing an appealing look in the Dog's eyes, Man called upon him to leap the chasm; that the Dog endeavoured to do so, but could not quite manage it, till the Man lent him a hand, and helped him over; after which they remained permanently together on the one side, apart from all other animals.

There may, of course, be something in this; but it is incorrect in one important particular. The Dog came over to Man in the beginning, entirely of his own free will; without reserve or qualification or stipulation, and without the smallest hint of compulsion. He did not attempt to make terms or lay down conditions. Man did nothing to make him come. He chose utterly to merge his lot in ours, and has never withdrawn one inch from that position. By this he has marked himself out as differing fundamentally from all other created beings. Cats and horses, oxen and fleas, may have been more or less domesticated, deliberately, by Man. The Dog *is* domestic, and that mainly because, purely of his own volition, and after thinking it all out very carefully, he elected to *offer* himself for domestication, and to throw in his lot for ever and ever with that of Man.

Even now, in spite of these things, of the Dog's admittedly unique history through tens of thousands

of generations of his unbroken partnership with Man (which began æons before the foundations of the pyramids were laid), that original Man's phrase, 'Only a Dog,' is still in fairly common use, and probably has a good deal to do with the fact that Man's understanding of, and intimate intercourse with, his most devoted animal associate are still not so complete and mutually advantageous and interesting as they could be, or as the Dog's present-day descendants are convinced they should be.

CHAPTER I

SOME DOGGY HOMES

WISE men have stated that few among us really know ourselves. So it is pretty safe to conclude that we still have a great deal to learn about one another. All the wise men seem to be agreed that the more we learn to know about each other the better it must be for the world as a whole; just as there is not the slightest doubt that the more knowledge we acquire about each other the more interesting we find life, and the happier and better worth the living it becomes.

When one talks of learning to know each other better there is no need to think only of our own species. In the same way that in pursuing knowledge of mankind you must look far and far beyond the confines of your own immediate neighbourhood, so, if we really want to know more about one another we should look beyond the ranks of mankind altogether, and seek understanding as we can among other communities. Outside our own human family, I think you will agree there is no other that is closer to us, and none that is better worth knowing, than the canine community, since dogs have been man's intimate friends and associates for just as long as we have records of the existence and doings of either. The more you learn about dogs the better you understand them, of course; and everyone who learns really to understand dogs finds that he thereby greatly enlarges his circle of jolly friends and companions; of

folk worth knowing; of associates whose intimacy makes life richer, fuller and happier.

Admitting that we still have a lot to learn about one another, you will perceive that I assume a certain knowledge of *you*; not an extensive or complete sort of knowledge, of course—far from it—but, at all events, this much: that you are what is called ‘fond of’ dogs, and that, even if you don’t at present possess one of your own (so far as one being may fairly be said to possess another), you mean to have one—or several—some day. In short, that you like dogs, are interested in them, and recognise that they are folk worth knowing.

This being so, I can promise you you will gain in all ways by study of them; that there is a deal to learn about them which most of your friends don’t now know; and that the more you learn about them the more you will enjoy their society, the more you will get out of them, so to put it, and—note this, please—*the better they will like you*, and the more fully they will enter into every sort of association with you, everything you would like to do with them. That is one of their characteristics as a race; and, as a race, there is nothing in life they enjoy more, or are keener on, than occupations and activities which they can share with humans who understand them. Genuinely understanding co-operation, intelligent partnership in activity—that is the thing most desired by nine out of ten of the dogs you meet.

But, if you want to reap the full benefits attaching for us to this delightful canine characteristic, it is essential you should first learn all you can about dogs. They are too intelligent to fling comradeship at you blindfold. To get the real thing, there must be giving on your side also. What you must give is understanding. When you are able to give that, you can get far more out of dogs than other folk who do not understand

them ever get. And so, apart from the absorbing interest of the subject, you will find that it will pay you over and over again to set to learn all you possibly can about dogs.

What writers have called Fortune's ironic revenges and reverses have certainly played their part in the history of the canine race, no less than in that of human peoples. In our own time, I have seen the dog folk outlawed, execrated as vermin, and generally misprised and maltreated, upon the self-same soil which once saw them worshipped as gods. The ancient Egyptians actually worshipped the dog; and you may be interested to know that the sacred writings of Persia record that, three thousand years and more ago, the dog occupied so exalted a place in this part of the world that the legal penalty for ill-treating him was more severe than that imposed for killing a man.

Being the sociable and gregarious good fellow that he is, the dog himself probably found no great satisfaction in elevation to the Egyptian or any other Pantheon, and he is certainly made very wretched when outcast by humans and treated as a pariah. A modest but assured middle position is more to his taste. Friendly association and partnership with human folk are what he has always sought, and done his utmost to merit; and to-day it is notable that wherever civilisation is at its best, wherever the humanities are most assiduously cultivated, there the dog is most highly and generally esteemed. This fact gives special savour, does it not, to the generally accepted verdict of European writers on the subject that, of all races and nationalities, the English-speaking peoples are the most remarkable for devotion to dogs. By the same token, it is pretty generally admitted that, among the English-speaking peoples, the British (in all parts of their Empire) have excelled

in the breeding, training and general development of dogs; and especially, in the development of the sporting and semi-sporting varieties, such as Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Wolfhounds, Beagles, the different Gun-dogs, Airedales, Sheepdogs, Terriers, Bulldogs, and the classic breed of Bloodhounds. (The technical and official classification of our eighty-and-odd breeds into 'Sporting' and 'Non-Sporting' divisions strikes the unofficial student as being here and there arbitrary, and not too well based.)

You will be glad to know that, in Britain alone, there are some six hundred dog clubs and societies; that there are three to four times as many dog shows as days in the year; that even among the exclusively aristocratic, not to say princely, canine families, the Kennel Club registrations of pedigree dogs in this country amount to five thousand per month.

Official statistics make it clear that there are now not fewer than three million dogs in Britain. It is a goodly family; especially for those who note, as the student of these matters does whenever he takes his walks abroad, that the proportion of purely-bred and carefully-reared dogs to that of mongrel-bred, come-by-chance and unkempt animals, continues steadily to rise. It is the 'yaller dog,' rather than the dog of pedigree and good breeding, who is tending to become the exception among us; and this represents the healthiest sort of progress. But, in considering that canine populace of three millions, you must bear in mind that the human populace of the same area numbers something near forty millions, and that some single individuals among them are responsible for the housing and care of as many as fifty dogs. Therefore, you must not assume that the canine population is so distributed as to yield in companionship anything like one dog to

every dozen humans, nor suppose that the ideal of one well-known doggy enthusiast, that 'Every British family should include at least one dog,' has already been attained.

Personally, I am free to confess my sympathy with the writer who recently stated that he never found himself in a dogless household without wishing he could forthwith make good what he felt to be a real deficiency. "That would be my chosen form of Carnegieism: to endow dogless homes in perpetuity with dogs." Well, though a servantless house can be made quite jolly, your dogless home rarely seems truly complete; for muffins alone cannot give a hearth its full hearthsome-ness, and the best of cats is neither for use nor ornament in the outward-bound crossing of porches. No, no: the house is never so truly home as when it shelters at least one dog.

But something more than 'Carnegieism' might be needed, all the same, for the successful endowment of dogless homes; just as something more than money is wanted when you come to the introduction or adoption of a dog. Better the wrong kind of dog, or one not ideally right, than no dog at all, says the enthusiast. Perhaps, and in some cases; but, having recollection of certain tragical tales of failure and disappointment—you may have known one like it—one hardly would care to lay it down as an axiom. Some folk do not need to be bitten to be made shy; and some dogs might as well be condemned to penal servitude as introduced into a home of a kind fundamentally unsuited to their habits and temperament. To make a present of a dog is a little like making a present of a child; you need to know both parties extremely well: and, even then the affair is venturesome. My own preference, after ascertaining that a dog would be welcomed, and his

needs comprehended and met, would be for the presentation, not of the dog himself, but of a cheque that would make independent choice possible for the beneficiary. He is a queer, colourless person—man, woman or child—who does not prefer to choose his own friends; and to any benevolent prospective endower of dogless British homes, I think we might say: Proceed, first, to stimulate desire for the installation of a dog, and, having made very sure of that, provide ways and means for its satisfaction, leaving selection, choice, and “the ’igglin’ o’t”—as I once heard a Yorkshire dealer call it—to those most intimately concerned with the aftermath.

The ingenuity of the inspired bards who compose advertisements for the great stores must, I am sure, arouse the envy and the admiration of every pupil of the literary and journalistic correspondence schools. But occasionally, of course, even the most beneficent forms of social and artistic progress may in their out-working bear hardly upon single individuals. Here is an excerpt from one of last December’s insinuating announcements:

‘An Xmas gift for your godchild, sir? What could be more delightful than a jolly, romping wee Puppy Dog, full of high spirits, and fascinating, playful little ways. Visit our Canine Department on the ground floor, and make your own choice. The variety is endless, and we deliver free.’

One benevolent godfather who responded cheerfully to the call (neglecting an afternoon engagement at his club for the purpose) subsequently lamented discovery of the fact that the free delivery and the receipt given for his cheque represented rather the beginning than

the end of the business. His intentions were excellent, and he had felt genuinely grateful to the composer of the advertisement, no less than to the suavely optimistic salesman of the 'Canine Department'; but there is no denying that in its outworking his experiment brought grief to his godchildren, and some undeserved hardship to the chosen pup. It was an Alsatian puppy, by the way; but the godfather in question had never been a doggy person, and, having omitted to put any direct enquiry to the affable salesman regarding this detail, made his choice and completed his purchase, in the vague belief that he was presenting his godson with a Fox-terrier! "Seemed quite a little bit of a thing to me," he explained, afterwards; and that was not altogether surprising, since the pup's age was no more than nine or ten weeks, and it was less than as many days from the nest.

This particular philanthropist's innocence of doggy lore would have mattered the less, to be sure, if it had not happened to be shared, not alone by his godson, but by the entire household to which the puppy was delivered. Not that enthusiasm was lacking there. A seven-pound bag of dog biscuits—genuine hard tack calculated to exercise the jaws of a mastiff—was promptly laid in to furnish occupation for the weaner's needle-pointed milk-teeth; the neophyte's invariable accompaniments, in the shape of a handsome collar and an imposing whip being purchased at the same time, by way of making certain that nothing should be wanting to ensure the future welfare and happiness of the new member of the family. After due deliberation, it was decided that, a sound Conservative Government being then in office, it would be safe to postpone the taking out of a dog licence for a few days until the coming of the New Year.

Unfortunately, the Alsatian was not destined to attain anything approaching the comparatively mature age of six months at which a licence becomes a legal necessity. It was not so much his failure to extract nutriment from biscuits that were to him as granolithic paving stones to a bottle-fed human babe which hastened his dissolution. Indeed it is but fair to say that the range of dietary placed at this pup's disposal during that Christmas week was as extensive and various as it was unsuited to his simple needs. He showed more interest, perhaps, in the Turkish Delight than in most of the other delicacies with which he was plied; but he contrived also to assimilate a certain amount of best Silkstone, several chunks of Christmas pudding, and good, black Dundee cake, and portions of a perfectly good Shetland wool waistcoat. Withal, he came to grief before the dawn of the New Year, over a bunch of those needle-like bones which pertain to the upper portion of a pheasant's drum-stick, and his end approximated to martyrdom of a painful and violent kind.

Thus there were mourning and bereavement in the household, to which a kindly if unimaginative godparent had hoped to introduce nothing but delight with his 'jolly, romping wee Puppy Dog,' and there was unmerited and unnecessary tragedy for a newly-weaned Alsatian pup; all of which might have been avoided by means of the simplest kind of preliminary investigation and precaution. And these things were not the whole of the trouble, from the point of view, for example, of the enthusiastic would-be endower of dogless homes. There was this further loss to dogdom, and to an amiable English family whose members are at heart worthy and suited to enjoy canine companionship: the head of the house laid it down with emphasis that these

events must be taken as finally disposing of a question often mooted under his roof.

"This settles it," he said, after grave-digging in the back-garden, and the postal despatch of a brand-new dog-collar and whip to a relative in the shires. "We will *not* have a dog." To this day that otherwise agreeable home remains dogless.

The moral, says the profane observer who is not doggy, is that propaganda in favour of dog-keeping, or of introducing dogs into homes hitherto free from all such bothers and disasters is, as they say, all my eye and Betty Martin: a vain, futile, and even pernicious thing. To which I venture to reply that the precise opposite would be nearer to the truth, and that such lamentable incidents, rightly appreciated, both in themselves and in their most regrettable implications and effects, should serve only to stimulate a spirit of missionary fervour in the breast of the enlightened friend of dogs. It is not alone the dogs, but the dogless homes and their occupants, who demand the consideration, and the active but well-considered guidance of the doggy. In their interest there should be propaganda, presentation if you will. But let it be informed, enlightened and enlightening; and never confined to purchase across a counter and despatch in a hamper, however 'free' the delivery, or plausible the salesman. In this, as in most other forms of public service, something more complete and personal is needed, lest, in place of reducing the number of dogless homes, you perpetuate deprivation by multiplying the number of those paternal vetoes which lay it down for all time that: "We will *not* have a dog."

Considerations of humanity demand of the dog-lover that he seek to extend to others the pleasures he enjoys; that he should work for the furnishing of dogless homes

with that which they lack. Spread the glad tidings by all means. But, if you please, let it be done with forethoughtful kindness and understanding; and not as the uninitiate still injudiciously 'fling a bone to a dog,' without taking trouble to ascertain that it is a fit and proper bone, and not, by ill-chance, a barbed and treacherous relic of some unfriendly fish, or bird, or coney, such as is always more calculated to yield pain than pleasure, and choking than cheer.

No, by the time these pages are completed I hope one can be sure that, neither as giver nor recipient will you ever figure in so catastrophic a fiasco as the one which brought an untimely end to that Alsatian pup. On the contrary, by then you should be qualified to assist the benevolence of godparents who think of doggy gifts, to reap the fullest sort of benefit from any such gift yourself, or to help and safeguard from disaster any friends who might be so favoured. You will probably have formed the opinion, also, that, where advice to the benevolent is concerned, it is worth while to drop a hint that shops are not the best possible places in which to acquire dogs—dogs being rather persons than commodities—and that the surroundings in which they have been bred and reared furnish far more dependable and agreeable places of selection and purchase.

CHAPTER II

THE HAPPY DECISION

To the sceptically inclined, no written word can convey full realisation of the romantic instimulation, even of excitement, that is inherent in the adventure of acquiring a dog.

Rightly approached, there is doubtless authentic pleasure to be found in the purchase of books and guns, boots and pens, bags and walking-sticks, not to mention such phenomena of adult life as engagement rings and week-end cottages. But, you may safely argue, for real thrills, for sustained razor-edge interest, for delightful suspense, for the essence of that adventurous joy which gamblers pursue but cannot always capture—and are apt in any case to find infernally costly—there is nothing in the gamut of human experience at once so rich and so inexpensive, so choice and succulent, and so easily available, so magic and so simple, so utterly to be trusted as a form of prospecting in which you are certain to find colour, if not another Koh-i-noor, as the process described as ‘getting a dog’: the practical aftermath of the wise and wholesome decision to ‘keep a dog,’ or of the, generally, equally wise and wholesome decision to ‘have another dog.’

It is natural that the uninitiate should enquire just what may be the factors which give to this simple-seeming experience its unique interest and charm. Here the doggy psychologists are at variance. Explana-

tions differ widely, and are of no great use at the best, because the truth is, the whole business is too subtle, too jolly, too compact of magic and delight to lend itself to anything so callous and precise as analysis.

Two obvious factors are: (1) Unlike other things purchasable—in infinitely greater measure than other animals, because of their own voluntary decision, thousands of generations ago, to merge their lot for ever in ours—dogs are persons. (2) The quest of *the* dog brings one into pleasant relations with doggy humans; and, with full recollection of Petticoat Lane and the Mile End Road, and the picaresque nefariousness of certain kinds of dealers, be it said that doggy humans, as a tribe, do assuredly include a surprisingly rich leaven of the salt of the earth, in the shape of kindly, keen, humorous, hospitable, wise and altogether lovable men and women; and, be it noted, of authentic Cards, Characters, Worthies and Notabilities. Not even among housewives, gardeners, police-court missionaries, surgeons, sailormen, beachcombers, dwellers in the bush, gamekeepers, and the *corps d'élite* of the world's artist-craftsmen, have I found a larger proportion of *real* people, that is, of agreeably outstanding personalities, of folk worth knowing and cultivating, than in the ranks of the community of definitely doggy folk: the recognised breeders and fanciers.

These two factors, in the order here given them, have much to do with the fascination inherent in the quest of the dog; but the essence of the thing is indescribable; no more to be analysed than is the bouquet of a vintage wine, or the glistening tenderness in the eyes of a nursing mother—human or canine.

Having agreed to the main contention, the elders of the household will sometimes favour leaving all the rest

to some friend in the country, or to some supposedly knowledgeable dealer, or gamekeeper, or the like. But, in fact, it is a thousand pities to delegate to others the task of getting a dog. To seek help and advice—yes; that is all to the good; a prudent and productive course. But the fascinating job itself is too precious an experience to be missed. It should be savoured personally at every stage, right down to the home-bringing and induction of the new member of the family.

Long before you reach that thrilling climax, however, will come a rich variety of earlier stages; and, first among these, to be sure, you have to reach the jumping-off place—the vital decision to get a dog; in regard to which you shall not easily obtain more salutary counsel than is given in the words: 'Let nothing you dismay.'

It is pleasing to reflect that never a day dawns over England which does not bring this cheery decision to a number of widely-separated and differing households; just as every day brings the addition to our canine populace of dozens of litters of puppies, among the dog families of registered lineage alone, and without count of the many left-handed products of irregular unions. (There is food for interesting study in the Birth, Marriage and Death records of the canine newspaper press: the weekly *Our Dogs*, *The Dog World*, and the admirable official *Kennel Gazette*.) Just when, how and by whom are those decisions arrived at? I would hazard a guess that the evening hours are the more prolific, at all events during the wintry three-quarters of each year; for the subject is one that lends itself most aptly to fireside discussion. In high summer, no doubt, there will be before-breakfast decisions taken; Sabbath and holiday resolves,

garden-, field-, and heath-born determinations that are likely to bring after-satisfaction and gratulation. But, taking the year round, I think one may assume that a biggish proportion of the decisions to 'get a dog' are appropriately reached over a hearthrug; a spot presently to be beloved by the chosen friend.

As to the characters and circumstances of the hundreds who each day attain this interesting departure point, it hardly would be practicable to attempt consideration of the various sub-divisions—the typical jolly families; the lonely spinsters and the sportingly-inclined clerks; the timid householders and the truculent poachers upon other folks' preserves; the ladies of fashion with a whim for something cuddlesome in the 'Sleeve' line, and the athletic fellow in gaiters whose thoughts are of Bull-terriers—for their variety is endless, embracing alike those who seek a dog for technical sporting duties, those who desire only a single companion, and those who cherish ambitions in connexion with prize-winning, breeding, and the founding of kennels.

Very broadly considered, shall we say that they form three main divisions: those who, having been dogless, determine to have a dog; those who, having lost a cherished companion, decide (often after long waiting, hesitation and reserve) to try to fill the gap; and those who, from any one of a dozen reasons, resolve to add to an existing family of dogs, or to provide a companion for an 'only.' Of these, the members of the second and third divisions are likely to know pretty precisely what they want; while those of the first class, on the other hand, are like to have very open minds, no special knowledge, and considerable need of counsel and advice. For an unhappy choice at this important juncture may have the saddest of

consequences: nothing less than the self-despiteful and always mistaken resolution never again to attempt dog-keeping.

The decision to 'get' a dog once made, you will find that a variety of scarcely less important points fall to be considered before actual negotiation is set afoot; before, that is, the exciting and romantic stages of the adventure are reached. The due perpending of these various points, tackled in the right spirit, is highly interesting, and abundantly worth while. Here, as much as anywhere, the advice of the initiate may prove of value, and the counsel of practical experience should certainly be sought, if possible from those whose circumstances and mode and place of living differ not too widely from your own. Thus, at this stage, the flat-dweller and those who occupy suburban villas should seek counsel within their own urban area, rather than from dog-lovers who, themselves haply remote from city limits and limitations, may allow their advice to be too much coloured by the free and easy conditions of the countryside.

First, prepare to meet the question of the breed or variety from which the new friend is to be chosen. This is vital.

Next to man himself, you hardly will find an animal more skilled in adaptability than the dog. Consider the achievements of highly-sophisticated twentieth-century men during the 1914-1918 period, in the single matter of cave-dwelling, for example; or, again, the amazing adaptability to our modern domestic English life displayed by the progeny of dogs of the Arctic wilds, the sun-baked hills of Afghanistan, the royal palaces of Cathay, and the remotest forests and steppes of Central and Eastern Europe. But I beg you to remember that the dog's adaptability in almost all

directions—made the more noteworthy by comparison with his innate conservatism, his deep-rooted respect for the traditions of his own species, and the immensely strong part played in his life and character by inherited instinct and habit—represents no excuse for inflicting unnecessary hardship or for making unreasonable demands upon him; and from sheer lack of knowledge it is easy for the most kindly-disposed of humans to be guilty of both offences.

If you think a little about even those dogs that you have personally known, you will realise that, while there are breeds and varieties which can thrive in a way of life that is mainly sedentary, there are others for whom such a life means, for a time, at all events, something worse than penal servitude for a man; and for all time a shocking waste of natural gifts and abilities in other directions, and an unnatural starving and atrophying of desires, tastes, instincts and habits which are as much a part of the individual as the hair of his coat and the nails on his toes.

The hard-bitten Gun-dog of the moors and fens who looks with pitying scorn (through a French window opening upon a lawn, let us say) at a Pekingese dog in a drawing-room, is blind to the fact that these Lion-dogs of China have behind them a couple of thousand recorded years of the life of Courts and palaces. The Mayfair-bred Bulldog who, during a week-end in Devon, regards with almost shuddering commiseration the dripping, thorn-starred coats of, say, a brace of working Otter-hounds or Water-spaniels, is, naturally, unable to take into account the meaning for those same hardy sportsmen of a long and honourable lineage of forebears to whom water and snow and violent exertion have been associated always with even sweeter delight, more rapturously-savoured joy,

than they could extract from the warmest of hearth-rugs or the most succulent and friable of bones. But humans are in a position to weigh and understand these vital differences, and are in nowise to be pardoned for ignoring or for forcibly over-riding them.

Do not make the common blunder of assuming that big dogs are adapted only for country life, and that all little dogs are naturally fitted for indoor existence in a city. There are small breeds—varieties of working Terriers, for example—whose offspring, except where bred to it through generations, could not be inured, without real hardship, to the life of a town house or flat. And, on the other hand, I have known some of the biggest of Borzois, Mastiffs and St. Bernards, for example, who have thrived happily throughout a life spent within a mile of the Marble Arch. A good deal depends, of course, upon the individual, his rearing and immediate antecedents; upon the strain, as well as on the breed or variety; and, given reasonable care and treatment, as in dietary and exercise, it is a fact that individuals of even the most sporting varieties can be given a fairly happy life in urban surroundings. But, whatever your personal fancy, do not choose for such a habitat one of a *working* strain in any of the specifically sporting breeds. The Terrier actually bred and trained to go to earth, the Hound blooded to the chase, the Sheep-dog schooled to fold and pasture, the Gun-dog broken to gun and bird, to stubble, moor and mere; these and their like, including the humble farm- and field-bred ratter or lurcher—these, at least, place firmly outside your range of selection, if you are choosing a dog to share a mainly sedentary life within the pale of towns. In short, be sure you choose with thought for the chosen dog's well-being, as well as for your



Fall

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[p. 80

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own personal taste and preference. It is a friend you are to add to your home circle, not a piece of furniture.

The breed decided, think well over the points of age and sex. Is it to be a pup, a halfling, or a dog furnished and grown; a potential sire, a possible mother of the future, a predestined bachelor or spinster? Here again the advice of a friendly initiate in circumstances similar to your own is worth seeking, and the nature and situation of the home, no less than the inclinations and wishes of its human members, must be taken seriously into account.

In considering the many advantages of bringing up your own adopted canine child in the way you would like him to go, from early puppyhood on, do not be unduly timorous regarding the alleged pains and tribulations, difficulties and embarrassments, of managing the hitherto untaught. These things are often greatly overrated by the inexperienced; and, in fact, the rearing and training process involves vastly more of interest, pleasure and amusement—edification, too—than of trouble. The boasted guarantee of 'house-trained' is frequently a myth, or means something quite other than what you mean by it. The 'over distemper' vaunt is mere rubbish; for a dog need never know the scourge at all, or may fall victim to it several times over, and at any age. If the furnished dog of your choice be ever so well and truly trained, and clear of infantile mischances or disorders, it is not you who have trained him; it is not in your personal habits, tastes and way of living that he has been schooled; and you hardly can expect him to become so harmoniously part and parcel of your home as if he had been reared in it.

As against all this, it is true enough that if your inclination be set upon seeing the new friend step

straight into household routine, cutting out all nursery stages, so to say, and becoming at once a fully-fledged and responsible member of the family, then you will be well-advised to rule out whelps at all their different and highly-interesting stages of development, and to plump for the dog of from ten to eighteen months growth. In such case, it is, of course, the more important that you should know something of the circumstances and conditions of the chosen one's upbringing.

In the same way that it is easy to overrate the cares of puppy-rearing, so it is a common thing to exaggerate any disadvantages that may attach to the care of 'the female of the species.' If you are without experience in this direction, think of it in this way: Twice a year for a period of two or three weeks, the bitch will demand a little more of your care and attention than the dog normally needs. She will need to be kept away from her kind, and not allowed off the lead when outside your own premises. She should have a reasonably snug bed, not exposed to damp or draughts, and care should be given to her diet, which must then be on the spare side; sufficiently nutritious, to be sure, but not over-stimulating or heating. Precisely. But—a word to the wise, and kindly!—the most of these conditions—excepting the temporary withdrawal from canine society—should obtain *always*, the year round, for dog as for bitch. They should never be neglected for one day. And that, truly, is the extent of the disadvantages, if such they can be called, attaching to the choice of a possible mother, rather than a male dog.

Which brings you at once to consideration of a notable advantage. Whilst at this early stage you and the other members of your family may entertain no least wish in the matter of breeding dogs, it is within

the bounds of possibility that after a year or so you might arrive at the conclusion that nothing else would please you quite so well as the opportunity, if only that were practicable, of somehow obtaining another dog who would carry on the tradition and share the qualities and character of your first choice. That first-chosen might have so far attached himself to your very heart-strings. You smile; but they indubitably do, you know; and, sometimes, where you would least expect it. I shall not readily forget having seen authentic tears chasing one another down the grizzled cheeks of a paunchy, elderly London merchant, reputed one of the sharpest and hardest in Mincing Lane, the occasion being the verdict of a canine specialist that the case of a certain Scotch Terrier was hopeless, and that the little Diehard should there and then be 'put to sleep,' before his pains waxed too severe, and in order that he might not, in fact, die hardly.

If your choice was a dog, you may seek out some young relatives of his strain, and find one to suit your need, or—you may not. But if your choice had been for a bitch, and she found her way into your heart long before old age stole upon her, as she pretty surely would, if capable of reaching that sanctuary at all, then indeed the position had been different. An engagement is announced, a marriage is arranged, a veterinary nurse is, perhaps, notified, one of Nature's most wondrous miracles is set in train, and behold, in due course—in amazingly short order—your favourite presents you with a sleek little range of possible successors, of new candidates for a place in your heart, from which to make free choice and selection. There will be others to sell, or to present to special friends, it may be. All will be delightfully and intriguingly alike in this respect: that they are in the very fibre of

their being part and parcel of your established favourite herself, and she of them: that she, your well-esteemed, will herself cherish and rear them through their nursery stage, thereby transmitting to them who knows how much of all the qualities that have endeared her to you? And be it added—in case the experiment may be a novel one for you—you will have obtained for yourself an experience of unique and varied interest; a highly informing little epitome of creation, and of Nature's magical artistry.

Finally, 'the female of the species' is no less devoted and intelligent than the male; and, whilst the male may possess certain advantages in physical type and show points, and, too, in bent and temperament, where it is desired that he should share a very active, sporting life, there are authorities who will claim that, on what you might call the domestic side of canine-human companionship, the bitch excels in the qualities of unselfish affectionateness, and inclination to rate intimate association with yourself as her highest joy in life, even dearer to her than any purely doggy pursuit or interest.

Whichever way the fateful decision swings, toward pup or adult, dog or bitch, the noble hound, the jolly middling kinds, the fascinating miniature, let it be based honourably upon consideration for the chosen friend, his natural needs and bent, as well as upon your own predilections. Policy and expediency, hardly less than fairness and humanity, call for the judicial quality in this decision. Not only are the variousness and the divergences between different branches of the canine family at least equal to those of the human tribe, but, also, the choice of a future member of your family, one who, rightly understood, and given the chance, will play a very real and intimate part in the

household's life, is assuredly deserving of the best consideration you can give it.

And then, the elements of choice once definitely settled—breed or variety, sex and age—you may turn with expectation of very real interest to the quest of the ideal individual.

CHAPTER III

THE ACTUAL QUEST

I THINK you will have noticed that man is an animal who has an excellent good conceit of himself. And that is doubtless serviceable to him in his progress through the ages. But I would suggest to you that our prepossession by the idea of our immense superiority over all other created beings does at times militate against intimate understanding of these others. Does not the notion that we are so remotely removed from the simplicity of our cave-dwelling ancestry tend to exaggeration? Exaggeration of the remoteness, after all, must somewhat belittle the importance and rate of recent progress, which has doubtless been considerable.

The past half-century has given us some very ingenious novelties, and some progress in enlightenment; but, so far as mankind's remoteness from primitive simplicity is concerned, I would suggest that students of totems and Ju-Juism might still find interest in, say, the ceremonial of our funeral obsequies, in centres as modern as London, Paris, New York, and Los Angeles. Again, for witchcraft and necromancy, while their fees may be higher now than in mediæval days (doubtless as the result of stiff rents, rates and taxes in Bond Street), you shall find abundant evidence of their thriving survival between Piccadilly and Bayswater; not to mention less sophisticated centres,

in, for example, the Duchy, the Principality or the Land of Cakes and bogles.

As in other matters, so in our relations with the canine community, in place of boasting remoteness from the ignorance of our forebears, might we not pay truer tribute to the extent of recent progress by recalling that it is within the memory if not indeed the practice of living fanciers that folk esteemed broken-up glass as a medicine, and mutilated dogs' tongues with a view to ridding them of intestinal parasites! One trust that they are few, and rightly execrated where found, but it would be untrue to say that there no longer exist among us primitives who outrage the laws of God and man by keeping dogs chained to barrels for weeks and months on end; others who barbarously seek to inspire ideals of cleanliness in a dog by smearing him with filth! Many living fanciers remember such savageries being accepted by the generality as a matter of course; as, too, they remember the time when a family decision to adopt a dog member would produce some such interchange as this between the head of the house and, it might be, an acquaintance sharing the matutinal journey to Town:

"By the way, we've decided to get a dog. Know anybody who wants to dispose of one?"

"H'm! Let me think. What sort of a dog d'you want?"

"Oh, I don't know. Something fairly small, you know. We haven't a great deal of room at our place, and don't want to be eaten out of house and home, either. If you hear of anyone with a dog too many——"

"Well, now I come to think of it, I remember my wife told me the man who does our garden said something about his dog having had pups, and that she was a very good sort of a dog; good guard for his garden,

and all that, you know, and quite intelligent. .If he's kept any of the pups, you might——”

“Yes. Thanks very much. I wish you'd ask your wife to tell him to give us a call. It would be nicer to get it from a man one knows something about it, if possible.”

Queer! Such very casual methods of adoption can hardly prevail to any great extent to-day. Our understanding of dogdom certainly has grown during the past generation, even though it may still leave ample room for progress. If one were planning to take a human lodger into the home—a question of mere business relationship—one would recognise readily enough the importance of the newcomer's race and nationality; the difference between a fellow-countryman and, let us say, a Dyak from Borneo, a Senegambian, or an Esquimau. Withal, please observe (*a*) that the dog we take into our home will probably develop closer and more intimate personal relations with each member of the family than would the lodger; and (*b*) that the divergencies between different branches of the canine family are not less fundamental than those distinguishing the Hottentot from the Esquimau or the Englishman from the Patagonian. Consider also the Greyhound and the Pug, the six-inch Pekingese and the thirty-six-inch Irish Wolfhound, the Fox-terrier and the St. Bernard, the hundred-and-fifty pound Mastiff and the five-pound Pomeranian, the Yorkshire and the Saluki, the Schipperke and the Bloodhound; comparing them, not alone in the matter of physique (in which they differ more widely than man and the great apes), but in temperament, bent, character and tastes.

A good deal of our recent progress in the understanding of these matters may be attributed to the increase in the number, size and general popularity of

dog shows; of those exhibitions which, once the affairs of fanciers and the *cognoscenti* alone, have of late years become spectacles and entertainments for the big public. From them the general public has learned much; so much, that, whereas a few decades back particularity in the matter of the breed and pedigree of a dog was more or less confined to enthusiasts, to-day the out-and-out mongrel has become almost rare, and the would-be purchaser who makes enquiry simply for 'a dog,' without reference to variety, proclaims himself exceptional. Such progress has more than technical significance. It is psychologically important, because the absence of it represented a mental and spiritual barrier between dogs and men; an obstacle between ourselves and improved understanding of a noble race of fellow-creatures, whose members are entitled to claim closer relationship with us than any of the other animals.

When, nowadays, the family decides to adopt a dog, we may take it, then, that the questions of variety, breed, sex, approximate age and the like, are duly weighed and considered in advance, and a definite conclusion arrived at, before any move is made toward co-option of the new member of the household.

And, then, these vital points having been duly perpended (possibly in the light of one or two visits to dog shows, in addition to the counsel of friendly advisers), what should be the first direct step toward acquisition? When you want to buy something, you generally go to a shop. One has heard of dog shops, and, too, of those palatial storehouses in which you may purchase a motor-car or a split pin, a dinner or a sandwich, a suit of clothes or a button-hook, a pound of tea or—a dog; any kind of dog you like to name.

But, if there is something to be said for the man who prefers to obtain shoes from a shoemaker and clothes from a tailor, how unassailable is the position of one who declines to visit any shop at all in quest of a dog! You do not pick out your friends from 'show-cases,' or go to the stores if you decide to adopt a child. No, no; it will not do. Convenience may be ever so great a boon; but what indeed shall it profit a man if . . .

The writer suggests nothing derogatory to the 'Canine Departments' or their 'Livestock Experts.' They may represent the last word in sanitary efficiency, and be admirable as any model convict prison and its administrators. But, if you will be advised by me, when you desire to choose a canine friend you will visit dogs in their own homes. You will conduct your *pourparlers*, not with even the cleverest of shop salesmen, but with the men and women who have bred and reared those same dogs; who know them, not as merchandise, but as you hope later to know them: as beloved friends and associates; as very real persons, with hearts and minds and temperaments as subtly differentiated and sensitive as our own; while as for souls—well, it is for you to consider how *your* dog friend compares with the least of your human acquaintances in the matter of fitness for immortality. Look at it in any way you will, he is far too distinctly a person to be bought and sold across a counter. You want no embarrassing future ground for apology between yourself and the new member of the family. And so, by all means, let your friendship date from the right, pleasant sort of introduction, in your future friend's own home circle.

True, it is not every prospective dog-owner who is fortunate enough to possess the *entrée* to such home

circles, to number any established dog-breeders among his friends. But let nothing you dismay, for there are ways and means of overcoming that initial disadvantage. There are, for example, the weekly canine newspapers, such as *Our Dogs* and *The Dog World*, in which, along with a mort of other interesting matter, you shall find columns of advertisements, duly classified, and bearing upon most known varieties of dogs. Herein you may make known your own requirements, and study the announcements of the leading breeders.

Again, by enquiry at the Kennel Club¹ (84 Piccadilly), or by reference to the appendices of *Everybody's Dog Book*, you may obtain the name and address of the secretary of the specialist club or society which serves the interests of the particular breed you have in mind. In him (or her) you will be pretty certain to find a courteous guide, who is a student of the variety of dog in question. (Let your anticipation of courteous consideration be marked by enclosure of a stamped envelope addressed to yourself; for that is one of the little acts of forethought which help to make the world revolve more smoothly.) Ask for the names and addresses of well-established breeders in your own district. (A carefully-classified list of the owners of the most famous pedigree dogs of all breeds, with their addresses, figures in that invaluable publication, *The Kennel Club Calendar and Stud Book*, the fifty-ninth annual issue of which appeared in 1932.) To these, write frankly of your views and needs, and for an appointment to visit their kennels. You will find the experience as interesting as it almost surely will be practically serviceable. But pay your visit in the right, open-minded spirit of the seeker after knowledge; which is quite different from the rather grasping,

¹ See Appendix, 'A Postscript on Doggy Organization and People.'

bargain-hunting spirit in which customers approach shops and stores. Go rather as the interested amateur visits an artist's studio, for thus you shall be sure of your reward, whether or not it take the shape of the dog of your ultimate choice.

I remember being asked once, over the telephone, for the address of "a really good dog shop." Having admitted ignorance of all such marts, I offered instead the gist of the advice given in the foregoing paragraphs. A week or two later came a letter from which I now extract these passages:

'The little stranger thrives apace, and has already, I fancy, seduced us past the stage at which there would be any practical point in putting Kipling's question to us: "Should we give our hearts to a dog to tear?" Meanwhile, my orders from She who must be obeyed are to convey grateful acknowledgements to you of our indebtedness, not only because the little stranger is such a success, but because of the jolly people with whom your advice brought us into contact.

'The Hon. Secretary of the — Club wrote most informingly, and of the breeders whose addresses he gave us I wrote to three: one across the border, in Hants, and two here in Sussex. The first reply—very friendly and kind—was from Dr. —, the Hampshire man, and we drove over that afternoon. The doctor himself was out, but his wife and daughter took us over the kennels, and insisted on our staying to tea, during which the doctor arrived. We had a delightful time; enjoyed every minute of it; and we really did learn quite a lot about dogs. Once they had formed their own impressions of what we wanted, Dr. —



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Fall

[p. 42

and his wife decided against recommending anything from their own kennel; so nothing could have been more disinterested than the kindness they showed us, and the trouble they took to put us on the right track, and generally to give us the benefit of their own knowledge and long experience.

‘I confess I thought you a bit partial and exaggerated in your tribute to the tribe of breeders and fanciers—their generous good nature and readiness to help outsiders like ourselves, and their all-round *niceness*. I was not altogether converted by the Hampshire afternoon, either; because my wife and I agreed that the ——s clearly were not average people; much too charming for that. However, I am converted now; and that is why there is possibly a hint of apologia in these my long-winded thanks.

‘The fact is, the B——s and the M——s, here in our own Sussex, turned out just as rich finds as Dr. —— and his family. Visiting them as perfect strangers, without introduction, we actually lunched with the B——s; they wouldn’t take any denial. Here, again, they were not offering us anything from their own kennel, as it happened. And then, if you’ll believe me, B—— insisted on devoting the rest of the day to taking us over to M——’s place, whence, after two extremely interesting hours—not to mention tea in one of the jolliest doggy snuggeries imaginable, much friendly talk and instruction, and the examination of albums of doggy portraits and prize-cards and pedigrees—we returned home in triumph with our adopted pup, and the feeling that we had made friends with three of the most agreeable families we have ever known. So you may take it we endorse the most glowing of your tributes to the breeder and fancier tribe. If there

are many more of them like these three groups, they are indeed the salt of the earth, and, irrespective of sex, *pucca sahibs*, and the jolliest of good fellows.'

My own experience has satisfied me that there are very 'many more of them like these three groups'; that their hospitable and delightfully doggy homes are dotted about all over the kingdom; and that Britain is the richer for their existence, and for the love of dogs that plays so large a part in their psychology. And doubtless there are others. The ramifications and strata of the tribe are extensive and varied. The point is, there are very many of the real right sort; that they are easily accessible to the courteous approaches of every neophyte; and that, as breeders and practical enthusiasts, the least among them is better worth such approach than the gentry whose business it is to handle dogs as merchandise, who know them only as items of stock.

Making every allowance for the probable presence of black or darkish sheep in every flock, you will find that, just as the psychology and manners of dogs are wonderfully susceptible to, and radically affected by, the character of the humans with whom they are most closely associated, so, beyond all, peradventure, is human psychology affected by close association with well-bred dogs; and, especially, by the actual breeding and rearing of pedigree dogs. There may be room for chicanery, for meanness, for shams and pretences of many sorts, in *dog-dealing*, as in other trafficking; but in the breeding and rearing of pedigree dogs a man finds himself in direct relationship and intercourse (a) with Nature and (b) with both the psychology and the physiology of a fine and noble race. And, unless he be a very dull and stupid fellow, he soon recognises

that you cannot fool Nature; that, in this connexion, shams, pretences and dishonesty simply do not pay.

Without sincerity and conscientiousness, without kindly decency and straight dealing, it is impossible to achieve real success in dog-breeding. That is one of the many factors which make it worth while as a pursuit, and which make it worth *your* while, when you set out to acquire a dog, to take the steps here indicated rather than to seek shops or dealers, as though your quest were merely for a piece of furniture.

CHAPTER IV

THE CHOICE

ASSUMING that you have completed the leisurely and jolly process—properly approached it will always be that—of deciding to adopt a certain kind of dog, you now approach the delightful crisis of choice between given individuals.

I am sure you will have found the path leading to this thrilling juncture full of interest; a journey from which you will have learned quite a good deal of dogs and doggy people; of dog shows and of doggy books, it may be; certainly of dog character and physical points. Within certain limits, and bearing philosophically in mind the fact that the passage of time may bring modification of outlook and desire, you have decided that the chosen dog must be of this or that breed, age and sex, and that such future contingencies as exhibiting and breeding are, or are not, to affect selection. For the time, then, you have finished with friendly counsel and advice, with the consultation of text-books, scales of points and the like, and are facing the business of final choice as between a couple, or a dozen, of the right kind of dogs.

Theory and reason having played their proper part in education of the eye and development of sound intuitions, this is the moment for submission to the dictates of your own heart and mind; for, make no mistake, whatever you may think of it now, very presently

You will discover how much you care,
And will give your heart to a dog to tear.

And, no matter what the over-cautious may tell you, it is a thousand to one you will never regret or grudge the gift; for, between you and me, it is what we give that enriches us, and only what we grudge that impoverishes. Therefore, when you have travelled so far as this interesting crossways, it will be the part of policy and prudence, no less than of gallantry and goodwill, to exclude all considerations of curmudgeonly or pernicky origin, to shut out every influence of the niggardly or cheese-paring kind, and to step out boldly upon the path of your own natural inclination. Not: "I prefer this, but had better take that"; but, wholeheartedly: "This is my real choice; this I will take." That is the way to safeguard yourself from the futility of subsequent hankerings and regrets.

Do not suppose that this is the counsel of recklessness. Nothing of the sort. The chooser should beforehand have absorbed all the guidance and information of which for the time he can make use. By that his inclination is informed and dictated. His inclinations then are not irrational and blind, but reasonable and illumined. Antagonistic considerations will at best be based on rule-of-thumb theory, and at worst on parsimony or unworthy timidity of some kind—the sparing of money which will later seem less than valueless by comparison with a precious opportunity lost; or the half-hearted surrender to some other body's influence or suggestion, in the face of one's own deep-seated conviction in a contrary direction. No, at these crossroads boldness is policy, frankness is expediency, your own heart the safest guide.

Also, it were folly for any such well-wisher as myself, howsoever deeply interested, to offer you cut-and-dried rules as to final choice, since this is a matter in which what's sauce for the goose may not at all suit the gander. Thus, a 'silver-grey-russet' Yorkshire is to be chosen, or a 'butterfly' Papillon, or a Lion-dog of China, with forebears who lorded it for centuries in the palaces of Peking. In such event the chooser's eye will naturally linger favouringly upon all signs of what one fancier—not so unpardonably—has called 'miniatureness'—all-round smallness, and shortness of face. But, again, your concern may be with the great, the Hounds—Irish Wolfhounds, Bloodhounds, Great Danes, Borzois, or the like—and here, whether in the nest, or among grown and furnished specimens, the attractions will be all-round massiveness, with great length of head and fore-face. Withal, there are, to be sure, basic principles to be observed.

Whatever your plan and intent—to find the ideal companion, the future prize-winner, the notable sire, or the mother of heroes to be—one quality that will assuredly be desired is good health; a sound, robust constitution. Hence a bright, clear eye; loose, flexible, rolling skin; vivid redness in tongue and gums; sweet breath; sheen in the coat; elasticity in movement; and a general jollity, not entirely devoid, perhaps, of aggressiveness of demeanour, are all indications on the credit side; just as listlessness, languor, a dull eye, pale mouth, and dry, 'starey' coat are portents to inspire mistrust. A certain quality of reserve may be well enough, at all events in your grown and furnished dog; but a shy, shrinking, retiring demeanour, more especially in a youngster, albeit often combined with a charmingly pensive, wistful expression, rarely goes with constitutional robustness. Though you have loved

it in an old friend, you may wisely mistrust it in a new acquaintance.

The fancier with a 'scale of points' and thoughts of the show judging-ring in mind, finds the selection of a puppy from the nest something of a gamble; for changes are rapid at this stage, and development by no means always follows the expected lines. The choice is simpler, of course, where show points are not a prime consideration. In the important matter of physique, for example, Nature provides quite a number of useful indications, even in the suckling stage. Watching a litter of nursing pups, you will generally find (more especially in chilly weather) that the same one, or two, will contrive to worm their way more or less underneath the others, by persistent burrowing and shouldering. This is far from being evidence of a retiring disposition. Taken in conjunction with a healthy self-assertiveness in exploration of the maternal dugs, it is generally evidence of physical superiority, and the constitutional qualities making for survival. The determined burrower in the nest is apt to be the super-pup, who has this early learned to make use of his brothers and sisters as blankets, and to see to it that, whoever else may run the risks of exposure to chill outer airs, he shall lie warm and snug. A bit of a Nietzschean, a touch of the blond beast, perhaps; but none the worse for that, at this early period, and more likely than not to prove the pick of the litter for all time, in point of physical development and powers of resistance. You may profitably keep this in mind when examining a litter.

Even in the matter of 'points,' whilst colouring and the like, as studied in the nest, may prove misleading before the whelp is grown, such typical characteristics as length and breadth of skull and fore-face, body

proportions, bone formation and the like, may be gauged with reasonable security. When notably marked in the suckling stage, such qualities are likely to persist in after life, given average luck and health. Impudence, aggressiveness, a bullying tendency, downright greediness, too, are qualities to be regarded with a very tolerant eye, even to be looked for and welcomed, in the very young puppy. Their correction, in so far as that may be advantageous, is easily to be contrived a little later on; if not attended to, as it very probably will be, by the dam and the youngsters themselves, quite without human intervention. Meantime, you may safely welcome such idiosyncrasies as no more than germinal signs of determination, courage and a hearty robustness of character and physique.

Frankness, candour, open-heartedness, strongly-marked sex, courage and freedom from suspiciousness—these are invaluable canine qualities which have a way of displaying themselves clearly in the dog's eyes and facial expression, no less than in his general demeanour. They are rightly to be looked for, and prized. But, among many fully-grown dogs, there is a certain quiet reserve and reticence, a rather marked absence of anything like effusiveness or demonstrativeness upon first acquaintance, which are often part and parcel of the choicest canine personalities; the most lovable of dog characters. Among some of the bigger breeds of dogs, among Hounds, and, too, among such small breeds as, for example, the Dandie Dinmont (beloved of Scott), the Airedale, the Bull-terrier, the Bedlington, and the Pekingese, such characters are by no means infrequent, and generally worth cultivating. The natural dignity and reserve, the reticence among strangers, which is shown by such dogs, is a far remove from the suspiciousness of the wolf, and from the

hatefully furtive blend of timidity and cowardice with cruelty and malice which has cropped up in, for example, some imported Alsatians (doubtless the outcome of a not very remote wolf-cross), and is characteristic of that fortunately rare phenomenon, the canine cad; and, sometimes, of the cur—frequently a gipsy's lurcher, and definitely bred to theft, but not always a canine cad—who owes his viciousness to human influence, and to unhappy rearing, as well as breeding. Such rogues, wastrels and degenerates are perhaps more rare among dogs—certainly among British dogs—than in any other race. In no other species shall you find a greater proportion of natural gentlefolk.

Whether or not you are conscious of it, I can assure you it is a fact that what you find in a dog, psychologically, depends in great measure upon what you bring to him; and so it behoves one to approach strangers of the species with forethought and deliberate courtesy, especially when bent upon the work of choice and selection. You may be sensitively impressionable yourself. The dog is more so. Burdened by no theories, his judgment is quicker than thought; dictated, as it is, almost solely by instinct and intuitiveness. Offer him your hand in a certain way, and it may take you a month to alter the impression conveyed in the tenth part of one second. Even a half-grown whelp is capable of forming extraordinarily vivid and swift impressions upon first contact with a human stranger.

Admitting that the quality of being what is called 'good with animals' is a gift, and a valuable one, it is far more general than most people imagine. In fact, the unfortunate humans who really have implanted in them some obscure nervous or chemical quality which makes them definitely 'not good with animals,' albeit they do exist, are quite rare. But there is a certain

clumsiness, a nervous kind of *gaucherie* (due in some cases to the indiscretion of a servant or nurse in the victim's infancy), which handicaps some human folk in their intercourse with other animals. At its roots, as at the roots of so great a bulk of what is not good in the world, lies fear—that devastating pestilence whose symptoms range all the way between timidities too microscopical for conscious recognition, and the stark sources of murder itself. You must contrive to cast out fear if you would be a *persona grata* among the members of any species.

You may have noticed that there are people who (probably without knowing it) have a way of offering their hands to a strange dog as though tauntingly daring him to bite; or, again, as though proffering a poisoned bait. There are other effusive spirits who approach a dog for the first time as though in the midst of intimate romps with the playmate of a lifetime. Avoid all such vulgarities and *gaucheries*, I beg you. True, there are dogs whose sociability is so fool-proof, or whose courtesy is so invincible, as to make them tolerant of every such indiscretion. But there are others, by no means always the least lovable and desirable, who are less complaisant. In no circumstances is it either courteous or politic to adopt a less rational demeanour in making fresh acquaintances among dogs than among humans, for most of the dogs one meets nowadays are themselves both rational and well bred.

You and I, if you please, will act on the theory that teasing, tempting, 'ragging,' demonstrative caressing and boisterous back-slapping, if favoured at all, are indulgences for the intimacy of the home circle, liberties pertaining to established friendship. As accompaniments to first introductions they are irrational and unmannerly, and as religiously to be avoided

as blows or grimaces, shrinkings or coverings. The dog—frankest and most cordial of all our animal associates—dislikes them greatly, and deserves always to be met with the same affable courtesy which so generally distinguishes his own attitude toward us. Your voice should reach him before your touch. There should be neither aggressiveness nor effusiveness, and, above all, no hesitancy or suggestion of *arrière-pensée* about either. There is one other thing to which he will attach as much import as he finds in voice and touch. That is a quality of which you are ignorant—your smell. He will waste no time over the process, and it is courteous to permit him the opportunity of investigating this aspect of your personality before all else.

Above all, if you would achieve the effect of being what they call 'good with animals'—and it does greatly help understanding—*do not wobble*. "Mustn't fumble!"—as the egregious Mr. Shalford so insistently explained to Kipps. The less vocal and articulate the animal you are dealing with—whether it be a horse or a dog, a raw recruit in a Soudanese battalion or a haughty young lady attendant in a post office, a milch cow or the most impassive and imposing of commissionaires—the more necessary is it to avoid fumbling and wobbling, hesitancy and indecision. Your processes of weighing and perpending must be secret. When it comes to speech, act and movement, let your decisiveness preclude all thought of alternatives. You may be right; you may be wrong; you *must* be sure; at least, you must convey that impression. And, remember, you can convey impressions through the lightest touch of your finger-tips, especially to the inarticulate, for whom tentativeness of all kinds spells, at the best, discomfort, confusion and mistrust, and, at the worst,

the blind hostility of panic. The impartial philosophy of your academic orator—presenting no conclusion without scrupulous admission of its alternatives—would incite an African regiment to mutiny and a nervous horse to suicidal (or homicidal) dementia. Therefore, in dealing with dog-folk, especially on first introduction, do not wobble. Better the rudest of omissions, blunders or neglect than fumbling; better a forthright cuff than a half-given, half-withdrawn caress.

So, too, with the final selection of *your* dog. Allow no after-thoughts to creep in here. The choice made, the verdict pronounced, let inspection be ended forthwith, and no glance permitted toward alternatives.

Rightly or wrongly, the craft of haggling is associated in many minds with horse deals. In fact, all haggling is a vain thing. Speaking at least as much in the interest of the buyer as in that of the seller, and in the light of the recollection of many doggy transfers, I would say: Where you do not feel that you are being fairly and decently treated, do not enter into a bargain of any kind. Where the reverse conditions prevail, let your own conduct be worthy of them, and of the occasion—your adoption of a dog—and above the pettiness of chaffering. If you cannot compass the price named, say so frankly, admit that you must forgo the opportunity; if you will, mention the limit of expenditure beyond which you feel you may not go; and—leave it at that. No backing and filling, no niggling. Such tactics show want of courtesy to a fellow friend of dogs. They represent a blemish on your attitude to one who may become *your* dog. What is more, in nine-and-ninety per cent. of instances *they don't pay*.

One further point must be touched, since it is perhaps as vital as any. Do not—this very specially in the case of a puppy or young dog—do not content yourself



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SCOTTISH TERRIER
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[p 54

with cursory enquiry as to the treatment, up to this point, of your choice, in dietary, housing, exercise, and the like. Be thorough in the use of your own faculties of observation, be pertinacious in enquiry, and insist, no matter what else you waive or overlook, upon obtaining a document more valuable than pedigree forms—a *written diet sheet*. Write it yourself, if need be; in no case go without a clearly-detailed statement in black and white of the meals which are being given to the dog of your choice; of what, precisely, they consist, and at what intervals, precisely, they are given. Nature abhors avoidable revolutions, and the dog's digestive system is not at all the fool-proof machine that many people seem to think it. It is to be remembered that you, not Nature, devise and impose the regime under which your dog friend lives; it is an ill thing to shirk or boggle the responsibility. Translation to a new home necessarily involves brisk changes for a dog; and, especially if he be young, those most directly affecting his physical well-being should never be sudden or needlessly drastic. So do not trust to memory, or to airy assurances as to this or that 'sort of thing, you know,' but by hook or crook obtain in writing a genuine and detailed statement of the dog's present mode of life, and, in particular, of his exact dietary.

CHAPTER V

THE NEW BOY

ESPECIALLY in your doggy dealings—and the same holds good also of very many of life's affairs—it is a mistake to imagine oneself at a grave disadvantage if forced by circumstances to economy in money matters. There is no real disadvantage in this.

It is to be hoped that the possession of wealth may carry with it *some* compensations. It would be diverting, to be sure, to be able to build and run kennels quite regardless of cost; with 'marble and maple and all,' and taps 'h. & c.' in every compartment. But the worst of wealth must be the deprivations it entails; the pleasant little indulgences and luxuries of which it robs the holder; not to mention the healthy exercise of contrivance, make-believe and the like; and the superb appetite that 'saving up' brings to acquisition. Your rich man so often has to content himself with the clerkly dullness of signing cheques, giving orders, and initialling chits; leaving all the choice bits, savouries and subtleties, the doing of things, the romantic and interesting first-hand contacts, to the luckier, poorer folk.

I ask you to conceive now the hard case of the poor rich fancier (generally hoddened down by tiresome engagements) who, when about to adopt a new dog, must needs despatch a highly-paid kennelman to make his choice for him, and—more dismal deprivation still—to bring home the new treasure and himself seize and

keep all the joys pertaining to the fascinating process of induction! In this particular matter at all events, defiance of convention would surely be the part of wisdom. Myself, if endowed with the millions of all the Rockefellers, I would flatly refuse self-effacement so sweeping as this; and if my head kennelman did not like it, then, as we used to say, he would have to lump it. Whatever my wealth and his magnificence, the fellow should not rob me of all part in the feast of selection and home-coming and introduction; even though I had to bribe him with an extra week's pay for allowing me to do this part of his work. For, rightly approached and appreciated, there can be few jollier or more richly interesting experiences than the human's part in adopting a dog friend, bringing him home, and inducting him into the living that is to be his.

As for the dog's own part in the transaction, that, too, must always be interesting, and possessed of the quality of adventure. It will assuredly have thrills for him; but whether of the agreeable or the embarrassing kind, whether, upon the whole, an ordeal or a pleasant experience full of happy promise—that will depend upon the understanding and imagination of the humans concerned; their understanding of a dog's gifts, limitations and susceptibilities; their exercise of that most serviceable form of imagination which enables you to 'put yourself in his place.' Whether the introduction be to kennels and a community of dogs, or to the interior of a hitherto dogless home, I would ask you to remember that its central figure will be consciously the 'new boy,' and, as such, easily embarrassed. But, since he may no less easily be spared all such unpleasantness, it were a thousand pities not to make his first impression happy.

If it should be to already inhabited kennels that you are introducing him, the best procedure for the newcomer is the simplest and most obvious—a few minutes of detached freedom to see and be seen (and sniffed) by the whole kennel community, in the open, and then a good long period of rest and seclusion in his own particular compartment, to be followed by a run in the open with the others; then a meal, in privacy, and so to a night of unconscious acclimatisation in sleep.

But humans and their households are more complex than kennels and their tenants. Accordingly, the new dog's introduction to them is rather less simple. It can be either happier and more entertaining, or harder and more baffling, for him. The choice is with you, and must depend on your discretion.

We are most of us ready enough in recognition of the limitations of the members of other species, but not always so appreciative of the ways in which their powers exceed our own. Knowing little of the swift workings of his intuitive faculties, and forgetting often that his senses of sight, hearing and scent are vastly keener and more highly perfected than our own, we humans are inclined to underrate the significance for the dog of novel experiences. Taking, for example, one among many of the dog's highly-developed faculties, we cannot at present gauge or define his almost miraculous sense of smell, but we can and should allow for some of its effects. It is no exaggeration to say that dogs can *read* as they run (and clearly as you can read poster type) scents too faint to be recognised at all by ourselves. It is not too much to say that smells we are able to recognise as such must smite the infinitely more sensitive nostrils of the Hound in much the same way as an unexpected pistol shot or trumpet's blare may assault our ears.

Imagine yourself able, while running full pelt across a field, to pick out and follow unerringly the scent of the boot of a friend who traversed the same field some hours before you, *among a number of other passengers*. Conceive, then, of your sense of smell being so fine and powerful that as you run you read the scent of your friend's boot clearly enough to know perfectly whether he left it in going or in coming. Imagine yourself possessed of a sense of hearing which would enable you, *while fast asleep in bed*, on a wild and stormy night, to be roused to perfect consciousness by the sound of a light footfall, or the faint click of a wooden gate-latch, a hundred paces distant, outside the house; to grasp that one faint sound among many, and with such acute perfection as to know beyond all peradventure whose hand or foot produced it. Superhuman as such achievements are, I have time and again observed them as the merest commonplaces of canine life.

His first railway journey and visit to a city represent sufficiently startling experiences for, say, a boy from a remote moorland village. But he is told much beforehand of all he is to see. The actual experience is novel, and, perhaps, exhausting; but for so long as he can remember he has heard talk of such marvels; and his reasoning faculties are of a kind that enables him to make logical deductions and trace connecting links.

Consider by contrast the case of a young, sensitive, highly-bred dog, born and reared in, say, moorland kennels, and adopted when in the halfling stage of growth by someone living in a city, or in a busy household outside a town. First, the abrupt uprooting from the only world he has known—the remote moorland kennels; then the startling experience of a long drive in cart or car; followed by the waking nightmare of a rail-

way journey (steam whistles, tunnels, passing trains—to him horrific as anything conceived by Dante and Doré), and, finally, under strange guardianship, the introduction into a human household. Conceive if you can the workings of that dog's mind and senses, under such a hurricane barrage of astoundingly new sights, sounds, smells, sensations and kaleidoscopic impressions, all registered with a lightning-like swiftness of perception, a measure of intensity quite unknown to our eyes, ears and nostrils, and foreign to minds more used to the relatively deliberate processes of reason and deduction than to the flashlights of intuition.

The adopter of a dog who bears in mind such considerations as these will feel a kindly desire to ease as much as possible the inevitable strains and stresses of induction. But—if you will pardon the apparent ungraciousness—kindly desires are not pin-proof, certain ways paved with good intentions are ill to traverse, and there are pitfalls in the lives of our animal friends that are dug by the most sentimentally benevolent of humans. In short, a little observation suggests that kindness, hardly less than callousness, may mar the process of introducing a canine addition into even the best of home circles.

The reason is that whilst callousness may cause the dog to be placed in difficult positions and exposed to unnecessary embarrassments, or worse, kindness, when uninformed by the caution that experience teaches, may tend to fuss, and fussiness may make the introductory process very trying. The fact is that at such a juncture the dog is in any case exceedingly busy, intensely preoccupied by the demands made upon all his faculties by the situation in which he finds himself. If you should suddenly be introduced into a room full of wonderfully interesting pictures, to a superb sunset

view, to the subtly complex details of some fascinating new machine, organisation or problem, the last accompaniment you would desire would be the buzzing commentary of a fussy cicerone. Your perceptions being stretched like harp-strings to the task of taking in impressions, you have nothing to spare for the meeting of other demands, which necessarily affect you as confusing interruptions. Not otherwise is it with your new dog friend at the time of his introduction to your home; the which, remember, presents to him a maze of intricate detail never noted by yourself. (Its smells alone are for this newcomer equal to a substantial collection of books, prints, pictures and other interesting *objets d'art*, for a human.)

Other members of the household are very naturally anxious to note and observe the new boy's reactions to themselves and their own familiar surroundings. Persuade them, so far as may be, to let the observation be such that its subject will be unconscious of it. Do not shadow him. Let him examine all the wares in your shop without once being asked to buy. Give him all the freedom you can. Let him feel his own way about, remembering that he will familiarise himself with anything more easily and quickly than you can familiarise him with it. Press nothing upon him. Do not 'crowd' him. He is very, very busy. Permit him, so far as you can, to get through his job in his own way, leaving all demands you may wish to make upon him, even those of education and discipline, for his second day. He is not to be allowed upon that particular rug, and he is to be given this special resting-place for his very own. Good. But to-morrow will be time enough for installations and inhibitions; the explanation of taboos and the making over of personal property. Let this be the day of grace, during which the new boy

may come and go and find his own way about, while sorting out his multifarious new impressions.

At no time at all, save perhaps in certain forms of illness, is the pressing of food upon a dog desirable. It is specially undesirable when a dog is being introduced to new quarters. Then, or within an hour of travel, either before or after, it is better not to offer a dog food in any way; still less is it wise to coax him to eat. Then, as always, fresh water should be available within easy access for him; but let him wait for food until the first stress of preoccupation in the matter of new impressions has toned down, and he has rested quietly for a while. Going without food, even for such a stretch as twenty-four hours, never harmed a dog in ordinary health; but the general upset caused by eating in the midst of excitement, nervous tension, or exceptional fatigue is thoroughly bad. Free access to drinking water, and to some open place, some fit and proper place in which a dog may relieve himself; these are essentials he should never be denied, even for an hour.

Please note that this question of the first meal in his new home is worth some care and consideration, as everything to do with feeding always is, since a dog's health and material well-being depend more directly upon this than upon any other one factor.

First, then, let the meal wait until at least an hour or two after the newcomer's arrival, and when he has rested in one place for half an hour. Then let him be fed there, and left alone with his food. For choice, the place should be that in which he will ordinarily sleep and have his meals. Leave him alone with his dishes (food and water) for ten minutes or so; and then remove the food dish, whether or not cleared, with no coaxing, and no postponement of clearing away on the

chance of the dog wishing to return to it. Let any such wish await the next meal, to which it will give an agreeable relish—the only kind of relish or condiment ever allowed to the wisely-fed dog, and the one of which it is a sin to deprive him. The healthy, correctly-fed dog ‘washes up’ after *every* meal; albeit his dishes should none the less be scalded and dried in the kitchen. He polishes his own platter for the simple reason that, after every meal he would like to eat just a little more. That inclination is an almost priceless asset for him, of which the kindest and most indulgent of humans too often robs him. Easily lost, such zest and appetite in feeding often prove most difficult to regain; and their absence tends to make canine life dull, tepid and colourless. This is one of the things that go to make correct and careful dog-feeding the keystone of successful dog-keeping.

As to the amount of the new arrival's first meal, this must, of course, depend upon his age, size, variety, etc. Let it be light and on the spare side, consisting of concentrated nutriment, rather than mere bulk; simple but appetising; of a sort that the dog will be pretty sure to finish, for that will bring contented rest, and a speedier, happier settling in the new quarters. As good a choice as any would be a fair ration of lightly-boiled rabbit-flesh, without bones, and with a little broken biscuit or houndmeal previously moistened with the liquor in which the rabbit was cooked. Beef or mutton will serve, of course, but the other will probably prove a greater treat, is easy of digestion, even in times of stress and excitement, and is the more likely to make for a good start in platter-polishing.

His first meal in the new home ended, the choicest, wisest gifts you can offer your dog friend are privacy and sleep. If a bone is given after the meal, by way

of dessert, let it be a biggish one, of the sort that cannot be splintered. Bones fresh from the butcher's shop are excellent; bones that have suffered a watery change in prolonged boiling are disappointing; fresh bones that have been given a quarter of an hour or so in a hot oven are superlative. Indeed such preparation will give virtue and succulence to a good bone, even when it has done service two or three times over. But, as with all other dog's food, allow it to become cold before being served.

If the new arrival is to sleep in a kennel, it is a good plan to make his meal a late one, as near turning-in time as may be. Then, his bed being a good deep one of fresh, dry straw, he is the less likely to mind its being strange. If, on the other hand, he is to sleep within-doors, the choice of his bed-place is a matter which calls for careful consideration.

Within reasonable limits, dogs withstand cold well. But they suffer rather severely from the effects of damp and draughts, especially where their sleeping quarters are concerned; and if subjected to drastic and sharp changes of temperature they are pretty sure to have to pay stiff penalties. Whatever form the bed takes, it must be raised a few inches above floor level. Ventilation and fresh air are all to the good—overhead; but no draughts on the bed itself, please. If a dog is likely to be spending his evenings with human friends in a comfortably warm sitting-room, it is not a wise or kindly thing to turn him for the night into a cold cloak- or boot-room, scullery or the like. He has but the one garment, remember, for indoors and out; and the right thing is to steer him clear of extremes—in the sitting-room, no nearer to the hearth than the outer edge of its rug, and for sleeping quarters a spot not too frigidly remote from the sitting-room's temperature.

With the newly-introduced, as with all other dogs, and at all stages of their lives, there is another point connected with retirement for the night which falls to be mentioned. It is a matter which touches the psychology and character of dogs, as well as their comfort, and one that must never be overlooked. Before bed, a dog should always be allowed a few minutes freedom out of doors. Even the youngest puppy very soon learns the proper use to make of this interlude. Well-bred dogs all incline naturally to behave as gentle-folk, and greatly to dislike any enforced breach of good and cleanly manners. This applies to kennel dogs no less than to the most favoured of indoor-living canine companions; for the well-behaved, properly-reared dog regards his kennel as 'indoors,' and hates to foul his own nest in any way.

As for teaching the untrained puppy cleanly habits, there is but the one rational method, and it has naught to do with beatings or other penalties; not to mention the stupid cruelties of many of our forebears, some of which were based apparently on the preposterous assumption that you could make dogs clean by rubbing them in dirt. You must simply put the pup outside so frequently as to make it odds on that things will 'happen' only while he is out. Given patience and thoroughness on your side, this necessary part of the canine youngster's education can be completed in a few days. But its completion only accentuates your obligation always after to remember your dog's needs, and never to deprive him for long intervals of access to the open.

CHAPTER VI

MEAT AND DRINK

EVEN Artemus Ward's young man, described as 'an ethereal cuss who plays on to a flute,' would nowadays admit that food is life, and that the lords of creation themselves largely *are* what they eat. In the case of less complex creatures than humans, the fact emerges more clearly. Without descending so far down the scale as the cheese-mite, it is tolerably easy to see that physical development and bodily well-being, not to mention peace of mind and grasp of what is called culture, are all pretty straitly dependent upon food. That is why the proverbial wisdom of the countryside has laid it down that 'The breed goes in at the mouth.'

When you have the opportunity of examining a perfectly-bred dog—a champion Hound at a show, for example—do not for a moment imagine that what you see is a splendid freak or happy accident. Such an animal is not simply the finest offspring of such and such a famous sire and dam, but the apex, peak and crown of a successfully-built pyramid, the base, sides and core of which represent (in the main) successive generations of *good feeding*. It is desirable to add that 'good feeding' means correct feeding. 'Correct' here embraces 'generous,' 'regular,' and even 'ample,' but it excludes overfeeding, rich feeding and pampering, as clearly as it excludes starvation.

There must have been a stage at which the world contained but a single kind of dog. (It was probably an animal weighing round about thirty to forty pounds, and looking like a cross between a jackal, a wolf, a shepherd's unkempt dog and a gipsy's hard-worked mongrel Lurcher.) To-day we have more than eighty different breeds of dogs officially recognised in England, the average weight in some being four pounds, in others forty, and in others nearer a hundred and forty. Compare, say, the Bloodhound and the Irish Wolfhound, the Bulldog and the Setter, the Toy Pomeranian and the Pekingese, with any reasonable imaginary picture of the original prehistoric dog. (Incidentally, such comparison reveals a striking tribute to man's creative and constructive skill, and, too, one of the prime factors in the fascination which dog-breeding and fancying have for the intelligent amateur.)

These wonderful examples of evolution by no means represent only the finished products of uncounted generations of selective mating. Primarily, the finest specimens of the canine race (as of all other studiously cultivated species) represent the outcome of many successive generations of consistently good feeding—the essential foundation without which good breeding is merely impossible. And that is the reason why, in all practical discussions about dogs, reversion to the feeding topic is frequent.

You will possibly have heard it stated that "Dogs will eat almost anything." It is one of the half-truths that are more misleading than most lies. Man, the one animal who is even more wonderfully adaptable than dogs, will eat almost anything—rather than starve. "Table scraps keep a dog going all right, so why bother with anything else?" So say certain self-constituted authorities; but never the practical, experienced rearer

of dogs. It is true only in so far as it would be to say that table scraps form a complete diet for man. Man or dog, being wondrous adaptable and tenacious of life, can be kept going for a long while on such fare as this. I have myself seen a man and three dogs who lived (and worked) for a quite surprising period on a diet that was confined to ice and old leather—moccasins and harness. But such things do not mean that dogs may justly be left to eat 'almost anything,' nor that it is rational to feed them on table scraps.

As a matter of fact, the dog's digestive system is small and limited in its capacity, and, more than a great many other animals, he needs good and concentrated food for his right development. Even in his present highly-sophisticated state he is not nearly so omnivorous as man is, nor can he profitably assimilate anything like so many kinds of food. He cannot make as good use of starches as man can, and, of the many valuable foodstuffs man derives from the vegetable kingdom, few have any nutritive value for the less omnivorous dog. Which brings one to the need for insistence upon the one fact more important than all others for you, as a dog-keeper, to remember in connexion with your charge's dietary; *the dog is essentially carnivorous*. The outward and visible evidence of this may be seen at a glance when you examine his dental equipment. The internal evidence of it is familiar to all who have made any study of canine anatomy. The certainty and the practical significance of it are known to all those who, in addition to being 'fond of' dogs, have, with method and understanding, bred and reared them.

This matter of 'practical significance,' put briefly as may be, amounts to this: so far from being the kind of creature who may be expected to thrive on the 'eat-



BLOODHOUND WHELPS LEAVING THE NURSERY FOR
A FIRST LESSON IN TRACKING

almost-anything' sort of pigsty dietary, the dog's digestive capacity for profitable and wholesome assimilation is strictly limited and confined. Being keen, tenacious, intelligent and very adaptable, he can maintain life upon very poor and unsuitable diets. But remember always that, for his proper development and all-round well-being, he requires food of a concentrated, highly-nutritious kind. Quality is more important for him than quantity, feeding than filling, and his diet should contain not less than fifty per cent. of animal food. He can thrive on ninety-five per cent. animal to five per cent. farinaceous food; but, if you come anywhere near to reversing those proportions, you present him with a diet which is thoroughly unsuited to his needs.

What are called 'house scraps' or 'table scraps' may fairly enough be utilised, but are never likely to represent a complete and correct diet for the dog, because: (a) the proportion in them of foodstuffs which are useless to him is likely to be considerable; (b) they are likely to include matter actively harmful, even poisonous, for the dog; e.g. condiments, spices, over-rich scraps, highly-dangerous fragments of bone from fish, poultry, etc.; and (c) their proportions of foods, which demand *crunching* and chewing are not likely to be half so great as the canine digestive system requires.

In this matter of feeding, I would draw attention to three forms of ill-treatment of dogs that I happen to have observed: (1) Neglect; which includes irregularity as well as inadequacy and insufficiency. (2) Overfeeding. (3) Treating a dog 'just like one of ourselves.' Of the three, I incline to think the first less prevalent than the other two, in this country at all events. The second is, perhaps, especially iniquitous, because it brings in its train a number of such deadly ills as fatty degeneration

chronic dyspepsia, lassitude and boredom, combined, of course, with complete loss of appetite and zest in eating—all which are especially serious for dogs; more so, perhaps, than for humans. The third is always and inevitably bad, for the simple reason that, however close and delightful our intimacy with them, dogs will never be 'just like one of ourselves,' physiologically or anatomically. Differing radically from ourselves in these physical respects, they require a radically different diet.

Our obligations in this connexion are explicit. By our methods of adopting and caring for him we largely deprive the dog of free choice in such matters, and definitely impose our own will and choice upon him. This makes our duty very clear and definite.

One cannot lay down any precise formula regarding a dog's daily food. This is impracticable where human dietary is concerned, and doubly so for dogs; for, whereas two ounces is an adequate daily ration of meat for dogs of one variety, six and eight times that amount is not too much for those of other varieties. Even within the limits of a single breed, individuals differ a great deal; but there are certain broad principles which you will find it advantageous for every dog-keeper to observe, and to keep steadily in mind; for it really is impossible to exaggerate the paramount importance of correct feeding as the basis of doggy health and happiness. Even character and disposition, manners, training and development as companions for humans, all depend largely upon this. Briefly, then, and just by way of sign-posts or indications, here are a few elementary points:

Dogs do not require (and are better without) so many meals in a day as most humans consider necessary for themselves. No grown dog, in normal health, should be

fed more than twice in each twenty-four hours. The ideal daily regime consists of one good, square meal, and one very light meal. For dogs living in kennels, the evening is the better time for the more solid meal; but many dog-keepers find that indoor-living canine members of the household may more suitably take their main meal in the morning. It is largely a matter of convenience and inclination, and not of great importance. What is of vital importance is that no such dog (fully grown and in normal health) should ever be given one scrap of food at any other time than at the hours definitely fixed for these two meals, one of which is of the 'square' sort, the other no more than a good snack. The solid meal should consist, as to one half of flesh food, and as to the other half biscuit food; while the snack may very well consist of dry biscuit food only.

Fresh, cold, frequently-changed drinking-water should always be easily available for every dog. This is important. The water-dish should not be placed where the sun will shine upon it. (There is no virtue whatever in a piece of sulphur placed in drinking-water, common though the practice still is. Sulphur is insoluble. When used at all, it should be given in the form of flowers of sulphur, mixed in with meat or other food.)

Like other carnivorous animals, the dog is a good deal inclined to bolt his food without mastication. Especially where non-flesh food is concerned, this is in many ways bad for him, leading to unnecessary waste, poor nutrition, and dental trouble. This is one of the points against table scraps; one of the many reasons why pappy, sloppy meals should be avoided. It is one of the many points in favour of making a dog's meals, as far as may be, dry, hard and rather lumpy than powdery or fine-cut. The encouragement of adequate mastication

is a very important objective in dog-feeding. But, while even meat is better not minced, because it is very desirable that it should be chewed before swallowing, flesh should never be given to a dog in *thick* lumps or chunks. It need not be cut very small, but should always be cut *thin*. The gastric juices will readily penetrate thin slivers, but not thick, chunky pieces.

The chewing of good-sized lumps of biscuit is an excellent thing for dogs' teeth and digestive system; as is also the chewing and gnawing of large bones.

It is important never to give dogs bones which can be splintered; and the bones of fish, game, rabbits, poultry, etc., should all be rigidly taboo as unsafe, even dangerous. Perhaps the best time to give bones is after the main meal of the day. They should on no account be left indefinitely with the dog, especially where more than one dog may have access to them; but removed after, say, half an hour. Such bones may quite usefully be made to serve two or three turns, if the dog is not robbed of all interest in them by their being left indefinitely lying about; and, if you want to add to their interest and succulence, let them be placed in a fairly hot oven for ten minutes or so, and then allowed to get cold before being given to the dog. Except where very young pups are concerned, stick religiously to the rule of one dog one bone, to be discussed in privacy; for old instincts are strong, and even the best-tempered of dog-friends may be provoked into squabbles over shared bones. Such squabbles, by the way, and shared bones, are rather desirable than harmful among a litter of puppies not more than a couple of months old—quite useful exercise. The gnawing of big bones that cannot possibly be splintered is highly beneficial for unweaned puppies, and they get a lot of fun and interest out of it, besides being inspired thereby to their first tentative attempts at

growling, barking, raising their baby hackles, and generally learning their way about.

As to quantities and size of meals, this is a matter to be decided by test and observation. It is highly important, and greatly affects a dog's happiness and zest in living, as well as his health. The rule of the clean platter is the golden rule. That is to say, each meal should consist of a quantity that the dog will eat readily and with keenness, and not a particle more. He should polish his platter clean, and show plainly that he would like a little more. That represents a quite invaluable guarantee that he will enjoy his next meal. Increase the quantity to the point at which even ever so little is left on the plate, and the last few scraps eaten are eaten with boredom, and you have the promise of no interest in the next meal; which means that you have robbed your dog of one of the keen pleasures of his life, besides having somewhat overtaxed his digestive system. His platter should on no account be left with him, once he has turned from it, but taken away and cleaned, whether or not he has left it clear.

When one writes 'cleaned,' by the way, it is with meaning. It is important that the dog's dishes should be scalded and scrupulously washed. These things affect canine manners and character as well as internal well-being; as do also the methods of feeding. Well-bred dogs are natural gentlefolk, wherever they are given a chance. Never throw food on the ground for a dog, or permit messiness of any kind; no hiding away of scraps in bedding or the like. Clean dishes prepared with precision, served with punctuality, and never a mouthful between meals—that is the ideal. And please remember that precisely measured quantities, served with scrupulous regularity, always in privacy, represent the best possible safeguard against doggy illness, and

one of the most important means of securing the maximum of doggy happiness, well-being, and companionable good manners. The incorrectly, injudiciously-fed dog is never to be seen at his best in health, happiness or general behaviour; and the fault is not his, but that of his human associates.

Your dog's condition, deportment and general behaviour will always reflect upon you credit or discredit. In all those innumerable subtleties that we group under the head of 'breeding' in judging our own kind, dogs, are veritable mirrors, and reflect with remarkable fidelity the manners and characters of the humans with whom they most closely associate. Where you hear someone say of his or her dog: "He *is* so naughty!"—you know the tone, do you not?—a more appropriate remark in nine-and-ninety cases out of every hundred would be: "I *am* so inconsistent and injudicious in my management of him!"; "I *have* so disgracefully neglected his training and education!"; or even, to be perfectly frank: "I *am* so silly in my general attitude toward this dog!"

Among ourselves, we look for consistent courtesy, consideration, reasonableness and dignity in people of good breeding. In the course of many years of fairly close observation in this particular direction I do not remember ever to have found these qualities lacking in the dogs who lived in the homes of such people.

To sum up, then, you should feed a healthy grown dog but twice in each twenty-four hours, one of the two meals to be no more than a snack, the other a good, satisfying repast. Soft, sloppy food is always to be avoided. Quantities are always to be measured carefully in relation to the dog's need and appetite. Regularity, punctuality and strict cleanliness are all-important. Not one mouthful of food is ever to be allowed between

meal-times. Frequently-changed fresh water is always to be available. Where fish, tripe, horse-flesh or the like are concerned, the quantities given may safely be perhaps one-third greater than those given of lean beef or mutton. No kind of spices or condiments, salt, pepper or the like, no cheese, pastry, cake, sweets, sauces, rich gravies, new bread, etc., should ever be given to a dog. Green vegetables have little or no food value for him; but well-cooked minced onions or carrots mixed in his food once or twice a week are quite useful. Fish-bones and bones that can be splintered are dangerous.

Dogs, more, perhaps, than most animals, require *feeding*, not *filling*. Unlike the herbivorous creatures, it is not great bulk, but quality and concentrated nutriment, chiefly in *hard* form, such as demands mastication—gnawing, crunching and chewing—that dogs need.

CHAPTER VII

THE HOUSING QUESTION

At first blush this may not appear a very necessary consideration, but, in fact, the housing of dogs (apart from its first-rate hygienic importance) does approach nearly to the fascinating pursuits of breeding and educating, in its yield of interest for dog-studying humans.

If it be true that Nature furnishes dogs with but the one coat for all seasons, we can at all events say that our northern climate is not niggardly in providing tests for that garment. And, in case these should not be sufficient, you will note that we humans, having adopted the dog, and accepted his voluntarily sought partnership in our own way of living, have added a good many others. Having made the canine members of our households free of our hearths and fire-warmed rooms, we do not generally offer them dressing-gowns for their bedrooms, or overcoats when their lawful occasions take them abroad, however, chill the outer air. There is no hardship in this for healthy dogs, for they are an adaptable race, and have long since accustomed their bodies to withstand the average run of such changes; but it does lend added importance to the whole matter of the dog's housing or kennel accommodation.

Wherever a number of dogs enrich one home, the provision of outside kennel accommodation is essential. Where any more than one are concerned, it really is

wanted. Even if your dog be an 'only,' the possession of a good kennel outside the house is a thing desirable and useful—for him and for you.

It may be that your dogs live largely in the house and garden, and have their appointed bed-places within-doors. Even so, they will thank you for the provision of a suitable outdoor den or sanctum of their own; and, for your part, you will find the existence of such dog-quarters of real service on occasion; as when visitors are accompanied by dogs who are quarrelsome, or otherwise suspect, or when for any reason it is desired that the dog members of your household be left to their own devices for a while, within definite and safe confines. In short, it by no means follows that outdoor quarters are superfluous where house-dogs as distinguished from kennel-dogs are concerned. In passing, one may add that there is a great deal to be said for the policy of feeding dogs exclusively in their own outside quarters, and so making practicable the salutary rule: Never one mouthful of food between meals, nor in the house, nor in the presence of other dogs. This is a rule the faithful observance of which has real value for the dogs, and is not without advantages for the household generally.

If in these days there are still survivors among us of the kind of folk who used to think that any old box or barrel formed a good enough abiding place for a dog—always providing he were securely tethered to it, and had more or less edible scraps thrown to him in its vicinity—they are perhaps unlikely ever to read these lines, and in any case cannot be worth much consideration. By the same token, it is well to add that many shopkeepers who ought to know better offer for sale smartly-painted dog-kennels which, however ingeniously designed to attract the novice's eye, are, by reason of the meanness of their dimensions and the

fimsiness of their construction, hardly more adequate as dog-houses than the lamentable old biscuit-barrel. If such a makeshift had to be used, one would prefer an authentic *cask*, made by a cooper with a conscience, and obtained from a wine-merchant or a brewer. But at best it could be but a shanty—not a dog-house.

Let us regard it as axiomatic that the dog-kennel should be a little *house*. Only thus can it be made even approximately a home. At the least of it, your dog deserves as good quarters as would be given to a parcel of hens. Therefore, whatever its nature, give him a little house, with an adequate (and properly protected) window, and a door to it by which you yourself can go in and out; a house in which, whether or not you could conveniently swing a cat, you can at all events effectively wield a broom. Reasonable light and ventilation are essential; but let the latter be of the overhead kind; not a floor-draught, which is pernicious. The base of the house must be raised clear of the ground, to ensure its occupants against damp. (Dirt, Damp and Draughts are the three deadly D's to avoid in dog-houses.)

According to whether the structure is to house one or several, you will devote a suitable proportion of its floor-space to the sleeping-bench. This should be set at a few inches above the floor, with a removable ledge-board in front, to prevent bedding being pushed off on the floor. The ledge should be movable to facilitate sweeping out the space below the bench, which is sure to receive a certain amount of dust from whatever bedding may be used. Frequently changed and aired straw is as good a form of bedding as any; and peat, tan and saw-dust each have their own merits. The sleeping bench must be large enough to permit of its occupant's turning round and about with ease before lying down.

If shelves are fitted, as for the storage of leads,

brushes, collars, your own kennel-coat, or the like, be sure you place them high enough to be above the dog's reach. Young dogs sometimes develop a destructive trick of gnawing or scratching the wooden lining of such a house, near its floor, and the surest way of preventing this is to line the lower part of the walls and door with thin sheet tin, which can be painted or white-washed, as desired. Remembering that floor boards are absorbent, and not easily kept scrupulously clean, some form of floor covering may be found a boon. For this purpose, I have found ordinary glazed linoleum—not the more expensive and porous cork type—as good as anything, and an excellent labour-saving material for the purpose, easily cleaned with a wet mop, and as readily dried—an important point, this latter. Sunshine for the dog-house being invaluable, it is well to choose a southerly or south-easterly aspect for it. The morning sunlight is the more important, and if some overhead shade is available after noon, so much the better; but the dog-house which sunlight cannot enter is not a good one.

It has been said that light and (overhead) ventilation are essential. A third essential for the really adequate dog-house is an enclosed court or run. The orthodox fencing material is round-topped iron kennel-railing, which is manufactured for the purpose in varying heights to suit any breed of dog. Where this is objected to on the score of expense, a cheap and quite effective substitute is small-mesh wire-netting. As with other forms of fencing, its efficiency and durability will depend largely upon the method of its erection. Conscientiously set-up, I have found it serviceable even where big Hounds are concerned. The provision of stiff supporting stakes, well rammed into the ground, must be liberal, and the addition of an outside strut for

each stake is well worth while. Before erection of the netting, the run to be enclosed should be marked out by a shallow trench. Six inches or so of the lower edge of the wire-netting should be curved into this trench, and buried under well-rammed rubble, so as to discourage possible burrowing activities from within.

Another and an excellent form of kennel-fencing can be purchased in suitable lengths, and of any height up to six or seven feet, in the form of split chestnut palings strained on twisted wire. Properly put up, you would find this adequate for the biggest and strongest types of dog, and by no means unsightly.

On certain railway bridges for the use of foot passengers, you may have noticed that, doubtless to discourage the climbing activities of adventurous children, a kind of metal lattice-work has been fixed above the solid parapet, with strands about the thickness of stout blind-cord. I once bought a quantity of this lattice very cheaply, from among the stores for disposal in a railway company's goods yard. (Many kinds of condemned stores sold by railway and shipping companies are a boon to folk living in the country, by reason of their enduring strength and solidity, which make the prices at which they may generally be purchased remarkably cheap. Old railway sleepers, for example, are fine, massive timbers, cheap to buy, and serviceable for many purposes; as for corner-posts, and—especially when the interstices between them are filled in with cement—as kennel verandah floors, or lying-out places in enclosures.)

This lattice was in sections measuring, as I remember it, about six feet by four. Well laced with binding wire to a liberal supply of stakes, and further stiffened by the use of a few galvanised staples, it made as good a kennel

enclosure as the heart of a fancier could desire; admirably rigid, weather-proof, and satisfactory all round.

For the littlest varieties of dogs, ordinary small-mesh wire-netting is, of course, good enough; and for such breeds as Pekingese and King Charles Spaniels, for example, ornamental wire hurdling proves adequate. But even in such cases, and more particularly where any active breed of Terrier, however small, is concerned, you will find it pays to have a good margin of security over and above the 'that'll do,' or 'near enough' sort of standard, and to put really faithful workmanship into the setting up of your fencing. Stiffness, rigidity, and good under-pinning—remember the trench—are important. (Even the stupidly so-called "Toys", like Pekingese, can be determined burrowers.) It is the sort of work one can accomplish with very little, if any, paid assistance, and so conscientious workmanship, need cost no more than scamping, and will prove vastly cheaper in the long run, while giving always a deal more satisfaction.

Be sure you leave no outstanding nails, jagged edges, or gaps wide enough to catch a paw, on the inner side of your fencing; and remember that its height should be a good twelve inches above the limit to be reached by your dogs when standing erect on their hind feet.

In different parts of the country, notably, for example, in Norwich, there are reputable and long-established manufacturers of really good and adequate dog-houses, who will supply any sections for the purchaser's own erection, or themselves put up to order upon any chosen site the houses they design, of proportions suitable for the smallest, the largest, or the medium varieties of dogs. These manufacturers may be trusted to give sound advice as to choice of sites, and dog-quarters generally. They will provide their houses in detached

or single form, in semi-detached pairs, and in ranges, or, as we say of human habitations, in terraces, of from three to a dozen, with properly fenced runs or fore-courts, back doors and many other conveniences. I have seen such kennels in excellent condition after five-and-twenty years of constant use. Their first cost is, of course, an item, but there is solid satisfaction in the possession and use of them; and, reasonably cared-for, their first cost is practically the sole expense connected with these very *pucca* erections; one in a range of which can always be reserved for your personal use as a den, a storage place, and what we used to call, in trenches, an advanced O.P.—Observation Post.

There are many makeshifts and substitutes, and some of them are good. Railway carriages, like ships, are built faithfully, to endure. There is much useful life left in one of these passenger coaches, when they have been condemned for further use on the railways; and at that stage, having regard to the material in them, their sale price is very moderate. I once obtained a really admirable range of kennels, handsomely adequate for from a dozen to twenty big Hounds, by means of re-conditioning a 'composite' railway passenger coach of six first- and second-class compartments. Posts and galvanised iron provided an excellent verandah, and when the internal stripping and re-fitting had been accomplished—there was something Robinson Crusoe-like and fascinating in that job—the quarters provided were as good and as durable as the keenest dog-keeper's heart could desire.

Rightly set up, enriched it may be by additions of tarred felt or the like, and given an enclosed run and sleeping-bench, the average good poultry-house makes a very tolerable kennel. It is often possible to buy at sales structures originally designed for quite other

purposes, which may be converted into very good dog-houses. These include Army huts, harness-rooms, garages, tool-sheds, and other similar portable constructions, which may be set securely on brick or stone foundations, or corner-blocks, to protect them from ground-damp, painted with weather-resisting preparations, and otherwise adapted at small cost, to make them good homes for dogs.

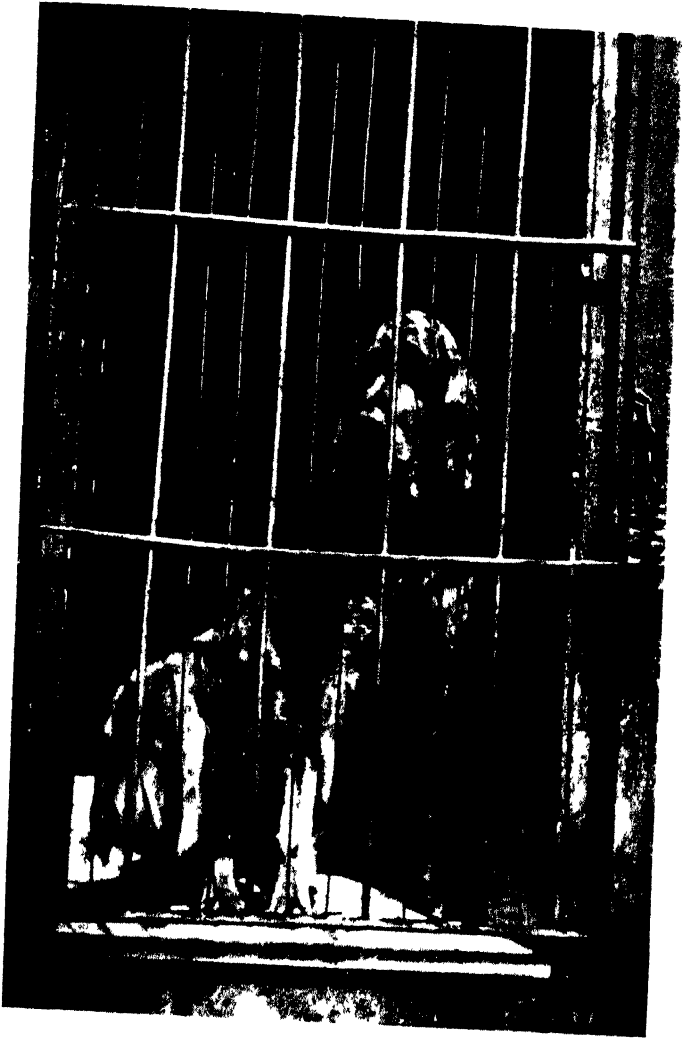
In the planning of all such quarters, you will be well-advised to give forethought to your own comfort and convenience, for this is a form of selfishness which is likely to add to the dogs' enjoyment of life, no less than to human enjoyment of the dogs' society. For my own part, I will confess that I hold no doggy quarters really complete, however well-appointed otherwise, if they include no sort of den for the dog-keeper, in addition to their apartments for the dogs. Here may suitably be stored collars and harness, brushes and leads, medicines and such-like things; and—who knows?—some framed dog-portraits, show prize-cards, or other doggy totems; a reasonably comfortable chair, to facilitate reflection and helpful observation, and, not least, a stove of the handy sort that will burn almost any kind of rubbish as readily as coal or coke or wood. The inclusion of this single convenience makes it easy, should occasion arise, to convert this particular apartment into a temporary nursing or isolation ward. Such a den, besides being an agreeable resort for the keen dog-keeper is invaluable in periods of distemper or other affliction, and in domestic crises, as when whelps are due; and the sort of stove for it is one which, apart from warming and airing purposes, serves admirably for the boiling of water, for keeping a stock-pot going for the kennel, or for the slow stewing of bones, paunches, horseflesh, and different kinds of 'offal,' the cooking of which may not

84 **THINGS EVERY DOG-OWNER SHOULD KNOW**

be welcomed within-doors, valuable though it is as dog-food. (What butchers and bakers, fishmongers and some others call 'offal,' includes some of the best and most nutritious among their wares.)

Good drainage is important for dog-quarters, and cement or asphalt is better than bricks for the runs, because less porous and more easily cleaned. But remember that where dogs are rationally educated the cleaning is very simple work in any case. Gates and doors should be made to open inward, more especially where heavy and powerful dogs are housed. A useful addition to the house-doors (opening inward) is a rough gate of thin metal bars or lattice, such as the local blacksmith will put together for you quite cheaply. This (opening outward) can be hung outside the dog-house door, for use on those occasions when confinement in the house is for any reason necessary, while the fullest admission of light and air and observation are desired. The accompanying snapshot shews Blood-hound puppies inside such a gate.

Another point worth consideration in the planning of dog-houses is the view and outlook they afford to their inhabitants. I have said that they should be accessible to the sun's rays, without being denied afternoon shade, or unnecessarily exposed to the worst drive of wind and rain. In addition to this, it is a politic and kindly plan so to pitch the dog quarters as to give their occupants as good and uninterrupted a view as possible. "But surely," you say, "dogs are not interested in scenery." H'm! A nice point. At all events, like some of their human friends, dogs are remarkably keen on being able to 'see a bit of life' from their own quarters. They hate the feeling of isolation, and of being shut-off; and they love to be able to watch the coming and going of other folk, and to develop (even to discuss among



BLOODHOUND PUPPI S

themselves) their own impressions of the purport and significance of such activity. They are great gossips and tireless observers; busy-bodies, if you will. In any case, they benefit in health, content, and in character development, from free indulgence of their love of observation.

Illustrating this, I recently received an urgent S.O.S. from a not too distant neighbour who had just acquired a fine and valuable young Bloodhound.

"I'm at my wits' end to know what to do with poor Bo'sun. At this rate we feel we shall soon have his suicide on our hands. Do come and look at him, and advise. It's really urgent."

Investigation showed Bo'sun established in what is called a 'pound,' an enclosure used years previously to house a prize boar. You would have called the 'pound' quite good quarters; a very solidly-built brick structure, with a fairly spacious unroofed court, and quite snug covered-in sleeping-place; the whole as spick and span as paint and whitewash could make it. And withal, the young Bloodhound did truly appear to be heading straight for suicide. His howling was continuous and very distressing; and he apparently devoted his whole time, and a most alarming and reckless expenditure of energy, to frenziedly leaping into the air, as though trying to see over the top of the high walls of his court. Having long since found the climbing of these walls absolutely impossible, he confined his hopeless efforts to attempts at soaring which looked as though they presently must end in a dislocated spine or a broken neck. A more distressing spectacle it would be difficult to imagine; the more so as Bo'sun was a magnificent young Hound, and a most lovable person.

Various expedients intended to be soothing were tried, entirely without success. There were reasons

why the young Hound could not be left at large; and, on the other hand, there were undeniable indications that, left in his present quarters he would presently destroy himself. He would eat a piece of plain dog-biscuit out in the open, but it was impossible to tempt him to consider the choicest of fleshly tit-bits in his 'pound.'

The spectacle both puzzled and distressed me, until at length, after close observation, I became convinced that one thing and one thing only made his quarters intolerable for Bo'sun. He could not see out from them, I recommended an experimental move, by way of test, and makeshift quarters were accordingly provided in the shape of a good-sized disused fowl-house, set in a small enclosure. Here, only railings and wire-netting separated Bo'sun from the frequently-used yard between the kitchen quarters and the stables. Sure enough, he settled down quite happily here, never again showing the smallest inclination in the direction of *hari-kari*.

Finally, it is a good general principle to have in mind in the planning of dog-quarters that they should form a pleasant and agreeable resort and loitering-place for all the human friends of the dogs to be housed. Make them so that you like them yourself, and can enjoy putting in time there, observantly. The quarters which you yourself like will probably commend themselves to your dogs; and the more that you and yours frequent them, the better the dogs will be pleased, and (content having a great deal to do with health) the less likely you will be to experience trouble in your kennels.

CHAPTER VIII

MANNERS MAKYTH DOG

THERE is no doubt that, in practically all varieties, the world's best dogs are bred in Britain. At foreign dog-shows it is often strikingly noticeable, even in breeds of definitely foreign—that is, non-British—origin; and most foreign fanciers recognise and admit it quite frankly. But in the training and in dealing in and with most dogs one must admit that British fanciers tend to lag rather seriously behind those of some other countries. In a business and material sense this is unfortunate, because British breeders lose a good deal by it. It is to be regretted in another sense, because our dogs deserve the best we can give them, because few occupations can be more fascinating for the amateur than the educating of dogs, and because the dogs themselves so richly reward the humans about them for all intelligent effort expended upon their education.

It is perfectly true—praise be!—that our British Foxhounds, Sheepdogs, and Gun-dogs are the best workers in the world in their respective fields. This is because their education forms part of our sport. I would remind you, however, that for the healthy dog there is an element of sport in all forms of rational and purposeful activity, whether we humans classify them under the head of play or work. And it is a fact that in training dogs for any such forms of canine activity as police, guard, patrol, tracking, military work and the like, not

to mention the draught-work which with us is forbidden, we do fall rather noticeably behind the dog-keepers of various other countries. And, apart from these things, there are big possibilities attaching to the liberal education of dogs, neglect of which is greatly to be regretted, alike in the interests of the dogs themselves and of their human associates. For it is as the outcome of the fuller education of dogs that wider, fuller and more understanding companionship between them and us becomes possible.

Here is a point which is worth all the emphasis it can be given: a delightful feature of the education of dogs, rightly approached, is that the teacher learns quite as much from it as the pupil, and gets from it as much interest and all-round benefit.

As with most other jobs worth tackling, a vital first step is to get a clear view of your objective, and thenceforward never to lose sight of it. For example, if your aim and notion in dog-education were to teach the sort of foolishness described as 'tricks,' I, personally, should have no suggestion to offer, unless the expression of a hope that you may presently acquire a more rational and profitable ambition. In which connexion I am reminded of the pathetic case of a neighbour who once paid a longish price for a certain Toy Pomeranian, because, as she subsequently explained: "Though he's not very handsome, he is the most wonderfully well-trained dog I ever saw, and, you know, I never have been able to teach my others."

If this good lady had indeed failed rather signally to teach her 'others,' it was far less due to faults in them than to her own incurable tendency to treat them as some kind of freakish variants between human infants of the 'long-clothes' era, Strasbourg geese or fattening capons. Her 'wonderfully well-trained' Pom was one

of the most ill-conditioned, badly-spoiled, and thoroughly unpleasant little creatures ever whelped—a perfect specimen of that rare canine type, the cad. A garrulous creature, his every speech was of the yapping sort, and his frequent snarls and snaps, so far from being reserved for strangers, were directed also and quite impartially at his admiring mistress and her servants, whenever they delayed by a moment the indulgence of his slightest whim. Withal, she judged him ‘wonderfully well-trained’ because, forsooth, the poor little wretch had a melancholy repertoire of parlour tricks; could pretend to smoke a pipe, would balance lumps of sugar on his nose, ‘beg’ for food—for which he was never allowed a chance to develop an appetite—and carry out humiliating antics, as a dancer on his hind legs. That his ‘training’ had included none of the elementary lessons worth learning was sufficiently shown by the fact that he never answered a call, unless to suit his own inclination, that he was devoid of self-respect and common cleanliness, and that he flatly ignored anything in the nature of an order to lie down, to stay in a given place, or to be silent.

My interest in doggy psychology inspired a desire to investigate this dog’s antecedents and upbringing. As an observer—I hope—of the average dog’s remarkable sensitiveness and responsiveness to human influences, you will be interested to learn that Schatz—that was the Pom’s unhappy name—had been advertised by, and purchased from, a barber in the East End who hailed originally from North Germany, though there was that about his nose which called up suggestions of Jerusalem or the Levant. Schatz was one of the few dog-cads, and, unless I have misread all the signs during a good many years given to study of such matters, this Pomeranian’s caddishness was a development, not of his heredity,

but of the mean and squalid environment and human associates of his upbringing in the home of a noticeably unclean barber. The dog is like a highly-sensitised photographic film or plate in the way in which he reflects and responds to the tastes, habits and idiosyncrasies of his human associates.

This brings one naturally to an interesting and important element in the education of dogs, and to a good and sufficient reason why every dog-keeper, and prospective dog-keeper, should give serious attention to it. Whether or not you recognise and direct the process, your dog assuredly will reflect in his own character and manners the influence and example, as well as the precepts, of the humans about him. Thus evidence of low breeding and bad manners in a dog is not alone unpleasant in itself, but also discreditable to the human folk of that dog's home. 'Love me, love my dog,' may seem an arbitrary saying; but there is certainly ground for assuming that, where a given dog moves you to dislike or contempt, you are not likely to find his human guardians entirely to your taste. A well-bred dog will, on occasion, be guilty of naughtiness, never of downright caddishness; not if he be well bred in the full and true sense, which, of course, goes beyond pedigree and includes rearing and upbringing. Because of this, and because of the fact that education is necessary to the attainment of real companionship, you owe it to yourself, no less than to your dogs, to give them of your best in this direction.

Make up your mind at the outset that it is a matter of mutual benefit and enlightenment. Clear recognition of this materially helps teacher and pupil. As in human schools, the master who cannot learn while he teaches, all the time, never attains real success.

Penalties and punishments (like mutiny in a regiment)

generally indicate more fault and failure on the side of the master than on that of the pupil. You can manage very well indeed without a whip; but never, by any sort of other means, without patience and common sense. Fairness, reasonableness, decisiveness, justice—these things are full-time essentials. Penalties should be regarded as rare and regrettable incidents. One unjust punishment will do more harm than a dozen overlooked misdemeanours; and any punishment or rebuke is unjust if its cause and justice are not clearly understood by the dog.

In addition to being explicit, commands should be few, if only because obedience has to be made absolute—a religion. Be very certain before it is given that an order is desirable and necessary; because, once given, it is up to you absolutely to enforce obedience to it, even though the process cost you an hour of tiring effort. There is no surer way of forfeiting the respect of your canine pupil, or of weakening his natural bent towards duty, discipline and docility, than the feckless habit of casually flinging orders about and then altering your mind, or for any reason allowing them to be disregarded.

“Oh, well; never mind then!”

Such knock-kneed phrases are doses of moral poison for any dog. And please do not make the mistake of thinking that he is incapable of recognising the moral flabbiness which dictates them. You are partners; yes; but one of the partners is by way of being the other's god; and it is fatal for gods to wobble. They must know their own minds. Better be wrong with decision than right with vacillation. The note of your voice, even the touch of your hand, if there is fear, uncertainty, or vacillation behind it, is exceedingly upsetting to a sensitive dog, and deadly bad for discipline. Better a villain than a wobbler—from the canine standpoint.

Even horses, with far less intimate understanding of humans than dogs have, will instantly detect, and incline to despise, the nervously vacillatory human, directly his fingers grip their withers.

Dogs understand a larger range of human words than many people think; and, above all, they are masterly interpreters of tone and of voice inflections. "No, no; that was stupid of you. You bungled that. That won't do at all." It might be an exaggeration to say that each word in such phrases comes within the dog's comprehension; but there is not the slightest doubt that he soon grows to comprehend perfectly the significance of the whole phrase; largely, perhaps, by reason of the fine sense of hearing which informs his judgment of *tone*. For this reason, it is unfair to issue an order or instruction in a languid or indifferent tone of voice, just as it is highly unnecessary to shout or growl it. I have known scores of finely-bred and highly-intelligent dogs who never required sharper or more drastic punishment than could be administered by word of mouth, and chiefly by variations of tone. With some dogs—especially, of course, from a human to whom they are devoted—even this form of punishment may be overdone, or made too severe.

As in dog-breeding, so in dog-education, there is much to be said for the policy of hastening slowly; one step at a time, and each step perfected before the next is attempted. Especially in the first lessons are thoroughness and finish demanded, because, as you will soon find, each truly learned lesson, fully understood, facilitates greatly all after learning.

So willing and practicable is the dog that he *can* be taught lessons the purport of which he never understands, or that have no logically understandable purport—like many of the silly 'tricks' that one regrets to see

are still favoured in some quarters. But it is a very different kind of learning, and vastly inferior to that which he acquires from an intelligent instructor who takes pains to bring everything taught within range of his pupil's understanding, a task which doggy intelligence generally makes simple. Such teaching is followed in the spirit as in the letter, and never forgotten. I have known Bull-terriers with whom pugnacity was a passion, and Dandies whose lust for cat-killing amounted to disease, who were so truly taught by masters whom they respected that, even when they believed themselves entirely unobserved, they stood fast (if not exactly firm) under pressure of catty, and other, provocation and temptation which set their jaws drooling, made every muscle in their bodies to quiver, and reduced them to the state which in humans brings beads of cold sweat to the forehead.

Whilst commands should be few, certain elementary lessons are, of course, essential to the preparatory stage of a liberal education. As much in his own interests as in those of others, the young dog must at the outset be taught to come promptly to heel when called, to be still and silent when told, to be scrupulously clean in habit, and—very necessary in modern traffic conditions—to “wait,” always, at a street crossing, till the adventure can be tackled “at heel.” Later and more gradually, he must be taught the elements of courtesy and restraint where other dogs, and humans, are concerned. Also, never to eat anything which he picks up on his own account; to refuse food not properly given to him in the regular way. This is not really a difficult lesson to teach, but it is a very important one to learn, and an invaluable safeguard for your dog.

To take the teaching a young dog cleanliness by way of example, there is but the one decent or intelligent

method; and, naturally, it has no connexion whatsoever with the stupid and barbarous old practices of beating, smearing in filth, or other such horrors. This particular and typical detail of preparatory education cannot be begun too early. Indeed, a start may be made even before weaning, once the dam has begun to give herself interludes of freedom from the family. The one and only method is to take the dog outside so frequently as to make it at all events very unlikely that he will experience any inclination to relieve himself at any other time. A little patience must be given to the task, but it is for a very short while only that such care will be needed, for, once learned, the lesson is never forgotten. Watch the dog carefully, prepared to act in the very nick of time; for that is the moment of psychological importance. Catch him in the moment that your observation makes you suspicious, and outside with him on the instant. Then, the business completed, be careful to award commendatory fuss; spoken praise, as though for an achievement, and head-patting. Special care, of course, last thing at night.

I have seen a good kennelman creeping stealthily as a Red Indian up to the gate of a kennel, first thing in the morning, because bent upon opening up, and getting his puppies outside, 'before anything could happen inside.' The kennelman's cleaning work was light and simple, because every dog in his charge, once clear of the weaning stage, treated the inside quarters of the kennels as a house-trained dog might treat a drawing-room.

Long check-leads and draw-tight collars are very useful in many forms of outdoor training, including the desirable and useful elementary lesson of respect for the cleanliness of pavements and footpaths. You watch your dog, and convey your wishes, *in good time*,

by word of mouth, and by Morse Code manipulation of lead and collar. Such a word as 'Outside!'—meaning: 'Off the footpath for that business!'—becomes every bit as thoroughly understood by the average dog as 'Heel,' or 'Here!' Warning, command, praise and acknowledgment, all must scrupulously be conveyed—never scamped—by chosen word and tone and voice inflexion.

The same method holds, of course, in leading dogs to and fro, and round and about, poultry, sheep, horses, cattle, past butchers' shops, etc. You will find that check-lead, collar and voice, not forgetting after-caresses from the hand, will speedily inculcate the 'Shun! Eyes front!' discipline required for moments of possible temptation. The earlier in life that such elementary instruction is given, the better for all concerned, the easier the learning, the more sure and automatic its permanent effect. Whenever tempted in these early stages to impatience, or to the lamentable kind of punishment that has temper behind it, try to remember that, nine times in ten, the dog's offence is more attributable to your own neglect, slowness in observation, or inadequate teaching, than to the offender's wilfulness. When sure that rebuke or punishment is demanded, let it never be petulant, casual, or ambiguous; always sharp, decisive, grave; certain to be understood.

These are the elementary details of the pupil's preparatory school. They demand, and should be given, all care and thoroughness from the teacher. But it is when they are overpassed that the liberal education of the dog begins; and, too, the most fascinating part of it both for teacher and pupil. The general principles already indicated are the principles which hold good throughout. But the aim in view grows steadily larger and more interesting; for its general objective is nothing

less than the development to their highest pitch—and that is a very high point indeed—of all those qualities and traits in which canine character is so wonderfully rich, that best fit the dog for full and real human companionship—‘eyther in-a-doore or out.’

It is in the most natural order of things that out-of-doors training generally comes first, and is of first-rate importance. You will find that it enormously facilitates and simplifies indoor teaching; and never doubt for a moment that it has its direct effect upon the fuller development of ideal indoor companionship. Outdoor discipline and shared sport of every kind bring your dog nearer to you in every sense, in the home and about the countryside: physically, mentally, psychologically; in the spirit, as in conduct and deportment.

And, by the way, do not entertain for a moment the delusion that those who have access to the countryside, and keep a dog, or dogs, are cut off from sport unless able to spend money over it. Limousines and long subscriptions have mighty little to do with the real thing; and there is a lot of fun to be got out of even orthodox hunting (apart from cubbing, beagling, and otter-hunting) by those who never lay hand on saddle or bridle.

Possibly by reason of a certain distaste, real or fancied, for some of its associations, or a certain conception, right or wrong, of the part played by the hares and rabbits, I, personally, never derived any satisfaction from orthodox coursing, or felt any interest in such events as the Waterloo Cup. But there is no sporting function that is richer in its yield of really satisfying interest, and excitement, too, and in all-round worthwhile outdoor pleasure, than Hound-trailing, Sheep-dog trials, field trials for Gun-dogs, and in certain forms of ratting, rabbiting, and mole-catching with dogs—all

sports in which one learns a lot, can teach one's dogs a lot, and is not called upon for any monetary expenditure.

The destruction wrought by rats each year is equivalent to the cost of a considerable-sized war, and that thought adds a touch of satisfaction to the sport of ratting with Terriers. The killing of rats is a public service (one of their many vices is their practice of disseminating disease germs and infection); and, from the rat's own point of view, the lightning-like instantaneousness of execution by a good ratting Terrier must be a vastly better end than any reached by way of poison or trap.

Another most intriguing form of doggy sport, followers of which are looked on as benefactors by the farmer and most other country-dwellers, is mole-hunting. And I know of none that is richer in all-round value in the training and education of dogs. It is open to almost any variety of dog, but especially, of course, to every branch of the Terrier family. And there's a deal of education in it, too, as well as solid interest and excitement, for the dog-keeper. The spring of the year is perhaps the very best time for it, and a field in which the first greenery of some crop is just beginning to show, the ideal situation. But meadows from which the hay has been cut and carried often yield splendid sport that lasts right on into November; after which the moles mostly work too deep in the ground.

There is a sense in which training a dog to catch moles represents almost a complete doggy education. Certain it is that, once so trained, a dog may pretty easily be taught anything else within canine reach, for he has learned how to learn, and is supremely conscious of the value of lessons. Incidentally, too, his teacher will have learned an immense deal about him; about dogs and canine psychology generally. Do not on any account

permit yourself to be discouraged if your first essays in mole-hunting should seem fruitless, in the sense of yielding no bag. They never are fruitless, in fact. If they can be made in the company of experienced mole-catchers, human and canine, that will, of course, greatly quicken and simplify the apprenticeship. Even when a puppy is but six or seven months old, he is not too young to be taught mole-catching. All that is needed is a long check-cord or lead—twenty to forty yards is none too long—and a field, meadow, moor, common, golf-course, or the like, where the presence of moles has made itself obvious.

Two elementary things to remember are: (1) that the mole's senses of smell and hearing, especially the latter, are quite wonderfully acute; (2) successful catching is a waiting game. The fateful spring, the thrust of the dog's muzzle into the earth, if they are to bring their due reward, must be delayed until the moment at which the burrowing mole has risen to within about an inch of the surface of the earth. Long before that, the dog may have winded him—that is where the check-cord must restrain the neophyte—but remember that his burrowing always has an upward slant—unless or until checked by some warning of approaching danger. The slightest clumsiness on your part—an untimely cough, for instance, or a single plunge or little whine from your dog—will often prove more than sufficient by way of warning; even though, as a matter of course, you will neither of you ever be facing other than up-wind. From the first winding to the final snap, which snatches the quarry from beneath no more than an inch or so of loosened earth, there may well be from fifteen to twenty minutes of almost breathlessly silent stalking, during which—once he has learned his first lessons—your Terrier is a joy to watch, by

reason of the statuesque poses he adopts, and the fact that every hair in his coat and every least nerve in his body seem strung to the highest concert-pitch of alertness. An absorbing sport, and an ideal form of canine education, I can promise you. Incidentally, as lady members of your family will testify, moleskins have very considerable practical value.

There are country places, by the way, in which regular rat hunts have been organised by local residents, with a master, huntsmen and whippers-in, all complete; and a bobbery pack of anything from half a dozen to a score of dogs, sometimes including, besides the ubiquitous Terriers, Cocker Spaniels and other Gundogs, Sheep-dogs, Lurchers, and even, here and there, a specially sporting Pekingese. A successful afternoon on favourable ground, and the bag will often run into three figures. And the fun of it all is not easy to beat.

Have no fear about the dog's capacity for the highest and most delightful sort of human companionship. His natural endowments in this respect are incomparably ahead of those of all other non-human animals. It is unjust, wasteful and impolitic to leave the development of these gifts to chance. That, briefly, is why dog-education is so emphatically worth while. Its charm and interest as a hobby may safely be left to reveal themselves to any intelligent human who tackles it.

CHAPTER IX

ABOUT DOG SHOWS

HAVE you been to any of the big Dog Shows? You probably have; and it is even on the cards that you have no very keen desire to visit any more of them. There are some devoted lovers of dogs who are not interested by these exhibitions. And there are, of course, thousands of people who have no idea *how* to visit them, or what to look for when there. There is a great deal to be learned at the Shows; but it is quite easy to miss the best of it, and to pick up nothing better than a headache. Dog Shows and picture galleries have something in common.

“Every Geordie’s fond of a tyke,” is a remark I once heard made in the North of England, apropos, I regret to state, of a flagrant though undoubtedly ingenious dog-theft.

Rather more than seventy years ago, in 1859 to be more precise, the doggy folk of Newcastle decided to introduce a new form of spectacle or entertainment to the public, and proceeded to organise the first Dog Show. The happy thought appealed to quite a circle of enthusiasts, and the show attracted no fewer than sixty entries. In this year of grace, as you may possibly remember, Cruft’s Dog Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, attracted just upon ten thousand separate entries: a wonderful record. In 1859 a single Show was a speculative adventure. Nowadays, we have

from 1,200 to 1,500 separate Dog Shows every year, in this country alone.

The figures are rather remarkable, especially when you remember that there are millions of people in the country who never have attended a Dog Show. These events are, upon the whole, very well organised, and, at all events by breeders, fanciers, and all grades of doggy enthusiasts, very well patronised. An immense amount of money and of energy are expended over their promotion: housing, advertising, feeding, printing, railway transport, and a score of other essentials, demand organisation as well as very substantial expenditure. At Shows in Edinburgh you will find exhibits and exhibitors from Plymouth; and you will meet Highlanders, Welshmen and Irishmen, with their dogs, at Shows in the extreme South of England. Here again is evidence of generous expenditure of money, time and energy. In all classes and varieties alike, lady exhibitors are now quite as numerous as men.

I suppose there can be no doubt at all about it that the thousands of Dog Shows staged during the past half-century have played a notable part in educating the public mind about the canine race, in stimulating public interest in the different breeds and varieties of dogs, and in making for the all-round development of British dog-breeding and fancying. Notwithstanding all this, it is probably a fact that if our British dog-fanciers possessed anything like the ability in business which has enabled them to lead the world in dog-breeding, they would long since have made Dog Shows, as an institution, far more profitable than they are, to themselves, and it may be, to the public, and to British dogs.

As we know it to-day, the Dog Show presents a highly-interesting and instructive spectacle—to the eye of the expert. Rank on rank, the Shows assemble, in

their duly classified battalions, hundreds or thousands of the finest available specimens of the different breeds. Armed with his catalogue (giving the immediate antecedents of each exhibit) the expert finds keenest interest in comparing and appraising the 'points' of the exhibits. The finest shades of differentiation, considered in relation to pedigree, afford him delight and instruction.

But there is no denying that to the untutored eye of the average casual visitor, the man-in-the-street who is 'fond of' dogs without being learned about them, the immediately striking thing about a file of, say, fifty highly-bred Cocker Spaniels or Collies is that they are all singularly alike. The bench of one may be decorated by several first prize cards, his value quoted at 500 guineas. Another may lack all decoration save its registration number card, its market value being placed at something under £10. And in very many cases the casual spectator has not the ghost of an idea regarding the vital differences which separate the two in the esteem of the elect. In short, this casual visitor finds that he rather speedily exhausts his interest in the most striking and extensive demonstration of the mere appearance of pedigree dogs. He soon satisfies himself, so far as his knowledge permits, as to what the different dogs look like. And then, possibly with a touch of headache—the exhibits being far from silent—he hies him forth in quest of other diversion.

But, one moment! On the way out he learns that in half an hour's time there will be held at some point in the Show grounds a demonstration on competitive lines, not of what pedigree dogs *look* like, but rather of what they *are*, of what they can do, of their capacity for some form of skilled activity, whether in herding, tracking, guarding, general manners and obedience,

patrol work, the overcoming of obstacles or the like. Instantly the interest of our British man-in-the-street is re-awakened. Here his fondness for dogs, no matter how inexpert, is a sufficient passport. He waits willingly, and in the upshot is keenly interested. So, too, with competitions specially organised for house-dogs, the most *generally admired* dog in the Show, children's dogs, or police, shepherds' or gamekeepers' dogs.

The moral is too obvious to require exposition. It is clearly by means of such special features, rather than by the simple presentation of the dogs for inspection, that the great bulk of the dog-loving British public will be attracted to Dog Shows, to the resultant advantage, no doubt, of our dogs and their breeders, and the commonweal. And (let me hasten to add) this is now becoming generally recognised and increasingly acted upon.

Professional dog-breeders and dealers cannot live by taking in each other's puppies. It is necessary for them to find a more extensive market for their surplus stock than could be furnished by members of their own ranks. Most of them have insight and imagination enough to see the very real importance to themselves and to canine interests generally, not alone of the definitely non-professional types of fanciers and amateurs, but, too, of what are called 'one-dog' folk, and indeed of that whole majority of the British public who are friends and admirers of dogs. But it cannot be said that, in the past, they have made the best practical use of this knowledge in the matter of stimulating general public interest in the superlatively good wares they have to offer; or that they and their specialist clubs and societies, and the secretaries of the Dog Shows, recognised in any very practical way the potentialities of the Shows as a medium of practical intercourse

between themselves and the general public. Show committees and secretaries who in the future continue to shape their policy on the short-sighted supposition that established dog-fanciers are the only folk worth serious consideration, will make a grave mistake, and, besides missing fruitful opportunities of serving doggy interests, will themselves suffer material loss.

The number of exhibitors, as well as visitors and spectators, whom they may profitably interest from outside the fanciers' ranks is almost unlimited; and it is to be remembered that some of the most famous among established dog-breeders and fanciers were themselves once 'one-dog' people. As a matter of fact, the possibility of exhibiting their favourites does at one time or another occur to the members of most of the hundreds of thousands of households which include a pedigree dog.

This fact was brought home to me the other day, when I found myself among the family circle gathered round a typically English breakfast-table in the beautifully English county of Warwickshire. The concomitants which make such gatherings so rich in Englishry were very agreeably present—two blooming daughters and one athletic son, a sedately cheerful matron behind the tea- and coffee-pots, the master with his letters and *The Times* beside his plate, a Sealyham-terrier, a tabby cat and a Wolfhound amicably sharing the hearthrug, sunshine at the window, and the pleasant fragrance of flowers, hot fish, bacon, toast, marmalade, honey, and the like, in the air.

"Father," said the younger daughter, "they are going to have a Dog Show in Leamington next month."

"Yes, dear—and in a few dozen other places, I suppose."

"But Leamington's different—so handy."

“H’m!”

“Patrick and Jimakins are both pedigree dogs, aren’t they?”

“I believe so,” agreed the head of the house. And: “I should think they were—long as your arm,” interpolated the son and heir, as he reached out to snaffle his mother’s neglected toast-rack.

“Well why shouldn’t we show them, father?”

“Have we then become dealers and fanciers?”

“Oh, but, father, it isn’t only for dealers. Why, the King and the Royal Family show.”

“H’m! You might pass my cup, dear. Kings can do no wrong, you know.”

“Well, but so do all manner of smart people, too.”

“‘Smart’ people can do no right.”

“But, father, don’t be horrid. Everybody shows dogs, when they have good ones, and it would be rather jolly to see Pat and Jimakins winning prizes, wouldn’t it? Anyhow, we should find out what a real judge thought of them.”

The main business of breakfast being by now pretty well disposed of, discussion of the Show suggestion became general, and before he could obtain freedom to open his letters and paper, the master of the house had to give his consent to the adventure being tried. Afterwards, while being consulted as to the conduct of preliminary procedure in the matter of dog-showing, I could not help reflecting that the talk and the proposal were perhaps just as typically English as the room, and the meal, and the jolly, hearty folk concerned, their healthy good spirits, and the sort of morning-tubbed glow one saw in their kindly faces. The question that had arisen, and the decision taken regarding it, could likely be matched, I thought, every day in the year, in quite a number of other English households.

All things considered, it seems to me that the following three axioms of worth-whileness may pretty safely be recommended to the beginner in dog-keeping: When you acquire a dog it is always worth while to get one of pure breed and good pedigree. It is worth while to register that dog in the archives of the Kennel Club; especially as the process now costs only three shillings. (Address: 84 Piccadilly.) It is worth while, at all events once, and experimentally, to show your dog. (Registration is, of course, an essential preliminary to exhibition.)¹

It is safe to assume that at a Show of any importance the judge who handles your dog will be a real expert where that particular breed of dog is concerned, and one who may be trusted to pronounce an unbiased verdict. Supposing that in the upshot your dog is, as they say, 'not in the money,' that he does not receive an award card, the chances are that, if you choose your opportunity with discretion (be sure it is after the judging has been completed), the adjudicator will be quite ready to oblige you by looking over your dog again, and giving you an expert review of his points. Apart from this, if you exercise your tact and faculties of observation, your day's experience as an exhibitor will teach you a mort of useful and highly instructive lessons, the most of which can hardly be acquired in any other way.

Dog-fanciers are a friendly, kindly type, and you will easily make the acquaintance of other exhibitors in your own variety. Many of these, too, will be judges; some of them highly qualified. (Do not overlook the professional kennelmen—admirably knowledgeable fellows.) And they will include men and women of ripe practical experience in the handling and study of the breed of

¹ See Appendix, 'A Postscript on Doggy Organisation and People.'

your choice; folk from whom you may glean a rich harvest of your breed's lore—practical hints regarding its culture; of tips as to dangers to be avoided, and desirable ends to be sought. You will get insight and intelligence of stud dogs and brood bitches, of expected or newly-arrived whelps, of advantageous possibilities of sales and purchases, of developments, tendencies, prospects, pronouncements, plans, and a host of other matters all connected with the breed of dogs in which you are specially interested. And, be it remembered, you will have opportunities of learning a good deal about other breeds. Sooner or later, the keenest specialist realises that the more one learns of dogs generally, the more real and complete one's mastery of any given variety. It is a fact that, as an exhibitor, you stand to acquire more of this interesting information than is obtained by the casual visitor and spectator. Your dog is your passport to the inner circles.

Perhaps you may ere now have been perturbed by the reading or hearing of such phrases as 'conditioning a dog for show,' with esoteric suggestions of secret unguents and philtres, known only to the *cognoscenti*, which are said to be very necessary for putting a dog into 'show form.' Do not be perturbed, I beg you. There is nothing here for tears or for dismay. The best conditioned dog for show is the dog who is faithfully groomed and exercised, rationally fed, and maintained at his best in health, *the whole year round*. Perfect health—that's the true 'show form.' But, and this is important, the dog that has never been exhibited needs a little practical tuition if he is to do himself, and his exhibitor, justice in the judging-ring.

Mark out a small square, say twenty paces each way, in your garden or in a field. A few stakes and a clothes-line will serve your end. If you have a chum or helper

let him (or her) take up a position in the centre of the square, to figure as judge. Failing this, a chair or box will serve. Then, your potential champion having been equipped with collar and lead, give him a couple of lessons a day, of ten minutes or so apiece, in the art and craft of exhibiting himself, while being paraded around and about the judging-square.

Your part is to keep the dog always between yourself and the judge, never bored or slouching, never slinking, all the while looking his best. It is very important to teach him to stand properly to attention—eyes front, chest well out, legs set like those of a winning hackney at a horse show. (Dog exhibitors might learn a good deal from exhibitors at horse shows.) Teach him to walk, trot, and extend himself, possibly to stand on his hind feet occasionally; always on the lead, and at a whispered word of command from yourself. Let discreet praise and reward bring him pride and interest in the parade, while practice teaches you to make the most of his strong points and the least of his blemishes.

When actually in the judging-ring it is, of course, important to show every courtesy and consideration to its other occupants, human and canine alike. Efface yourself; 'show off' only your dog; and don't make him nervous by fussing. It is wise to make a rule of never addressing a word to the judge, unless in reply to a question. It is also wise, perhaps, to avoid subsequent discussion of the judge's verdicts with onlookers or other exhibitors. At least, should you be led into such discussion, be scrupulously sportsmanlike in comment, never permitting yourself to forget that by the act of entering your dog for competitive exhibition you have tacitly undertaken in advance to accept the decisions of the appointed judges. Let praise of your dog's points and merits come from others. For your own part you

will acquire more in the shape of useful information and doggy prestige by generous recognition of the merits of other dogs.

There is another practical point. It is this. The conditions prevailing at any Dog Show, especially for inexperienced animals, represent quite a good deal of nervous stress and strain for the exhibits; so do not fuss or worry about it in the least if your dog should prove unwilling to take food during the Show. He is probably better without it. Neither should he be given food of any kind during the hour preceding his journey to the Show, or following the homeward journey. It may not seem a very cheering sort of draught to offer at the end of an arduous day, but most experienced exhibitors believe in giving their dogs a mild purgative of some kind after a Show. Some also make use beforehand of Kerol, that excellent internal antiseptic, and—both before and after—a careful antiseptic washing of the dog's mouth, nostrils, eyes and ears. There is wisdom in these simple precautions.

By showing him special favour and attention at the time, one may materially brighten a dog's memories where Shows are concerned; and he is a poor sportsman who risks allowing his dog to sense or suspect (some are wondrous acute in this) any disappointment he may feel over the awards. I can assure you I have known experienced show dogs who appeared quite certainly to know when they were 'put down,' and when they scored wins.

CHAPTER X

THE NURSELINGS

APART from the theories of their breeding, and so far as getting to know our canine friends, and their needs and idiosyncrasies is concerned, we can hardly begin at too early a stage of their existence. You may at any time have the good fortune to be brought into contact with a quite newly-born canine family; and it is good in such case to know something about their requirements.

In the first place it is perhaps necessary to realise that the dog-breeder takes upon himself the highly-responsible part of a kind of deputy-Providence; for it is he who exercises whole and sole control over the two main factors in the evolution of the well-bred dog—the one pre-natal, the other post-natal. These are: (1) pedigree, (2) early environment.

A regular omnibus of a word, that 'environment'; for it includes (as does 'dog-breeding,' for that matter) feeding and human tact and foresight, housing and human sympathy, insight and temper-control, sunshine and drainage, no less than patience and watchfulness. Your materialist, who is great on 'business methods' and the supreme importance of accurate book-keeping—correctly-kept kennel accounts *are* most instructive and helpful—will never attain the full joys and true success of dog-breeding while he fails to appreciate, for example, the immense value in puppy-rearing of such kennel factors as content, jollity, variety, cheerful-

ness of outlook and occupation; freedom from the lassitude that goes with boredom, confinement, isolation and the like.

Withal, mind you, it is true enough that, during the first weeks of their lives, the puppies are themselves thorough-going materialists, and that at this milky-nosed stage they are not greatly interested in any less concrete aspects of their environment than food, warmth, comfort and the regular functioning of their little insides. The more reason, therefore, that the presiding deputy-Providence should, so far as his management can compass it, ensure the adequate satisfaction of these simple but vital needs; for the nature of the pups' subsequent development, if not, indeed, their being able to develop at all, hinges largely upon how they fare in these early days. If at this stage it should become apparent that the puppies are unhappy and unthrifty, no time must be lost over securing expert investigation of the cause; for their hold upon life is tenuous as yet, their power of resistance slight. The most probable causes are: (*a*) that the dam's yield of milk is insufficient for her family, or (*b*) that it is acid in quality. The latter possibility, by the way, may very promptly be decided by the use of litmus paper, to be obtained from, and explained by, any chemist; and the former, the question of insufficiency, brings one to a point that wise breeders consider before ever the puppies are born.

This is the foster-mother question. The physical capacity of different canine mothers, as nurses, naturally varies a good deal, and the wise rearer is as anxious to avoid placing an unfair strain upon the health and endurance of his brood bitch as he naturally will be to secure the best possible nutrition for his puppies.

The young and inexperienced canine mother may not reasonably be asked to accomplish so much in nursing as the tried and proven matron in the prime of life. And, where the best possible results are aimed at, it is wise to assume that four, five or, at most, half a dozen puppies are as many as the dam will be able to nourish amply and nurse well, without too great a strain upon herself. Where the nursing is in any respect inadequate all the puppies alike—including the possible champion among them—will suffer, and suffer a loss never afterwards to be made up to them. Normally, the litter is as likely to comprise from five to ten as from one to five individuals; and the prudent rearer will wish to be prepared for either contingency, unless pre-natal conditions have justified an expert veterinary decision that the expected litter will be very small.

Failing any such positive indications, arrangements are made in advance to secure the services of a foster-mother, if desired, on despatch of a telegram or telephone call. Unless it is known that by lucky chance a suitable bitch will be available in the breeder's own immediate neighbourhood, application is made beforehand to one of the recognised providers of fosters, whose addresses are advertised in the weekly dog-newspapers. Cats, and even sows, and other animals have been known successfully to foster puppies, but experiments of this kind naturally do not appeal to the average dog-breeder. The best and most devoted fosters I have known have mostly been kindly, cheerful, hardy variants of the shepherd-lurcher-farm-dog sorts, of medium size, and well furnished in the matter of coat. Even where puppies of the largest breeds are concerned, it is generally safe to entrust, say, three of them to such a foster as this, care being used, of course, to provide the bitch with a correct and ample dietary (including lime

phosphate) and every other requisite support in her task.

Canine mothers, mongrel and pure-bred alike, are so kindly and docile that the introduction of the strange pups to their wet nurse is generally a simple matter enough, albeit one in which every kindly consideration should be shown to the bitch, or, rather, to both the two bitches, concerned. It is, of course, most necessary, humanity apart, to avoid nervous upset or distress of any kind for a bitch at such times, since the puppies will assuredly suffer for any tendency on her part to fret.

The first step is the removal from their nest of some of the foster-mother's own puppies—say, two out of three, or three out of four. Generally, the opportunity is taken to accomplish this when the foster has, for purposes of her own, voluntarily left the nest; and some little attention is, or always should be, given to soothing and placating her when she discovers the reduction in her family. Meantime, the breeder will have taken the first suitable opportunity of removing two or three of the pups of his own bitch the while she herself is voluntarily absent from her bench. The two lots of puppies are then brought together in a warm blanket, perhaps near the kitchen fire, where they should be kept all together for a while, in order that the little aristocrats may take unto themselves the smell of the little plebs, and *vice versa*. This is important. During the waiting period the foster will be accumulating her milk reserves, and the period may well be extended to fully a couple of hours, by which time the foster will be rather pleased to be relieved of some of her milk and the puppies will be the more ready to perform their part.

Now, the foster having for the necessary few moments been kept out of sight of her nest, the changeling puppies, in whose interest these arrangements are

undertaken, will be placed in that nest along with the foster's own remaining whelp. The foster is then readmitted to her nest, and will probably be greeted by whimpers from the pups, who, remember, have spent some hours in acquiring the smell of her own pups. The whole business is, of course, carried out as gently and quietly as possible, the foster being stroked and caressed, in speech and by hand, the while.

In all canine probability she will proceed first to nuzzle her own puppy solicitously. Then, possibly with a curious, harsh wrinkling of her sensitive nostrils, she will nose the backs of the strangers, momentarily resentful of their strangeness, and a little puzzled by their veneer of familiar smell. As like as not the blind strangers will prove sensitive enough to whimper, by reason of the hint of harshness in those big nostrils. More likely than not that whimper will settle the whole business. Maternal warmth will instantly communicate itself to the foster's nose, and she will faithfully roll the strangers on their backs and more or less severely lick their stomachs. This signifies their admission to her dugs, if not quite, as yet, to her heart. This being so, the pups will obtain their desired refreshment, and by the time the meal is over will be guaranteed the hospitable freedom of the foster's nest, and protecting flanks, and all-round nursing. This stage having been reached, she may be safely left alone with her charges, for the admirable canine way in these matters is never to neglect the obligation once undertaken. Later, to be sure, the survivor of the foster's own family will be removed for good and all, during the temporary absence from the nest of the mother.

During the whole of the nursing period both mothers will be generously fed and cared for. Their diet should stimulate their supplies of milk, without being in itself

over-milky. Canine milk is different from, and much richer than, cows' milk, and a too generous consumption of cows' milk is more harmful than beneficial to the nursing bitch, who, at this time more than normally, requires a liberal proportion of nitrogenous foods (such as meat) and body-building fuel. Especially during the nights, the nests must be moderately warm. It is a good plan to keep some little light burning all night in the kennels occupied by unweaned puppies. The capacity of animals to see in the dark is much exaggerated; and many a promising youngster has lost the number of his mess as the result of crawling beyond his mother's immediate range on a really cold night, and being, as it were, marooned, unnoticed, far from the maternal flank.

While their human friend and owner observes and studies the suckling puppies, he may engrave upon his mind the undoubted fact that, from this point on, their development will depend very largely indeed upon his own care and management; upon his sustained watchfulness—consistence is vital; the spasmodic 'when-convenient' sort of care useless—upon his foresight and judgment.

It is perfectly true that, deputy-Providence though he may be, he cannot endow these undeveloped little folk with shapes, colours, or physical type not pre-determined for them by the forces of heredity, reaching them through their ancestry. But it is equally certain that the natural tendencies which form their heritage cannot properly and fully be developed save by the rearer's aid, and in an environment at least equally favourable to that which evolved their heredity. They inherit a definite and specific impetus. Their early environment—which the breeder or rearer controls—decides its ultimate value and formative effect. The

tendencies are there. Full realisation must depend on the environment provided for their development. It is no belittlement of the first-rate importance of pedigree to state and to recognise that the finished beauty and merit which it may make possible may also be made for ever unattainable by faults in early environment. And, by that token, a studiously-perfected early environment will bring the fullest possible realisation of the pedigree's promise, and develop to their utmost all the favourable possibilities which it affords.

I have said that at this stage the youngster's requirements hardly extend beyond food and warmth and comfort. But be it remembered that feeding represents something of far more practical import than the satisfaction of puppy appetites. 'The breed goes in at the mouth.' Upon their early feeding depends very largely the ultimate physical development and appearance of the puppies, as, for example, when, it may be, they come to face testing in competition with fully-fledged champions in a show judging-ring.

When they reach the age of three weeks they should begin to receive their first lessons in the art of independent eating and drinking, without their mother's assistance. To this end you must prepare something in the nature of one of the recognised milky foods. Plain cows' milk will not serve. One of the good patent preparations may serviceably be used. Whatever the dish, it should be brought to blood heat before being offered to the puppies. Perhaps the best first step is to smear the warm liquid inside their lips and on their muzzles, so as to allow them to get the taste of it by licking. The second lessons will include teaching the puppies to suck a finger which has been dipped in the food. Thereafter they will come to suck the finger while it is actually held in the food; and from that point on

they will very soon learn to 'lap and to swallow' without the aid of the finger.

Let the first meal of the next stage be a little juice scraped and pressed from fresh raw lean beef. Very soon afterwards the puppies will be ready enough to take tiny doses of the beef itself, which, at first, should be even finer than minced meat; it should be scrapings of the raw lean.

These first lessons are necessary, even though you correctly assume that the dam is giving her puppies sufficient nutriment in the form of her own milk. They are necessary for four reasons: (1) As a safeguard against the danger of any maternal sickness or other failure. (2) As a means of saving the dam from undue strain or exhaustion. (3) As a means of supplementing the diet provided by the mother, and thereby of very materially stimulating and assisting the puppy's growth and development. (4) Because the early giving of these lessons will simplify, a little later on, the necessary process of weaning, and so tend to ensure the puppies against check or set-back at that important stage.

By the time these elementary lessons have been completed, you will find it very helpful to place at the puppies' disposal every day one or two big bones, such as beef shin-bones, to gnaw and play with. They must on no account have access to any little bones, such as their mother might conceivably splinter; nor yet to any lumps of meat, but only to finely-minced meat, raw, fresh and sound. But the gnawing and nuzzling of the big bones will benefit their jaws and teeth and digestive systems, and yield healthy occupation; and the question of exercise does become important at a quite early stage.

Enforced activity, exercise under compulsion, is not to be desired for young puppies—if, indeed, at any stage

of canine life. On the other hand, lethargy, confinement and more or less enforced inactivity are all bad, and bad in a variety of ways. They represent a brake upon bodily development, rob the youngsters of appetite and zest of life and growth, and hamper the digestive system. The finest of all forms of exercise for young puppies is voluntary play and gambolling one with another, on dry ground or floors, and, for choice, in sunshine. Here, as in other respects, the aforesaid big bones are most useful. The puppy's own bones and muscles are, in the early stages, very undeveloped, gristly and easily overtaxed; as is also his staying power in every direction. Whilst liable to be injured by almost any form of compulsory activity, he will never overtax himself in the healthy activity of voluntary play, because, in the very moment of his first suggestion of tiredness, he will incontinently throw up the game, curl down and go to sleep; sleeping quite soundly and resting himself quite adequately, even though only for a minute or two.

A few weeks later in their lives, if it is thought that the puppies are getting less than the desirable amount of exercise, activity among them may be stimulated by the fixing of little barriers about their run, beginning, of course, with very low obstacles indeed, so as to encourage them to do some voluntary clambering and very elementary jumping—as much as is good for their soft little legs.

The bigger and heavier the breed to which they belong, the more important is it to avoid the danger of overstrain for them, especially in the matter of their fore-legs and hocks and pasterns. Many of the most perfectly-bred specimens of St. Bernards, Danes, Mastiffs, Irish Wolfhounds, and the like, have been for ever spoiled, even deformed, during their first few

months of life, by acquiring bowed fore-legs or camel-hocks as the result of over-exertion (or lying out on damp ground) before their bones and muscles could develop powers of resistance. So, too, with Airedales, and those Terriers whose fore-legs should have gun-barrel straightness. Where body-growth is very rapid, limb-conservation is urgently important. This it is which lends special value to lime phosphate and bone-building properties in puppy food.

CHAPTER XI

THE WEANERS

A PUPPY inclined ever so little to pensiveness is a puppy in need of close watching, if not of immediate veterinary treatment; unless, perhaps, when the pensiveness is of that very evanescent sort which precedes the sleeping-off of an injudiciously big meal. Even that demands attention, in a sense, for it means incorrect dieting. Gorging does not make for good puppy-development.

Given reasonably favourable conditions, canine infancy is a riotously jolly period, and the infants themselves most intriguing and lovable little people. Always there would seem to be born in them the impulse toward ready give-and-take in affection, toward activity, self-assertion and a zestful enjoyment of life.

It is necessary to add however, that, even in the earliest stages, they are only too often cruelly beset by one deadly enemy of their race—the internal parasite.¹ Where the dam has been properly prepared for her great task, and she and her family have subsequently been fed with scrupulous care, the puppies will frequently escape scot free from the debilitating worm pest; an escape which always affects favourably the whole of their after-development in life. But in many cases, and almost invariably where these precautions have been neglected, the affliction comes; and, possibly before

¹ Read the chapter entitled 'The Little White Devils', in the dog novel, *Peter of Monkslease*.

weaning, certainly very soon afterwards, it must be dealt with, or the youngsters will lose headway never again fully to be made up, and indeed, in bad cases, will actually die from this cause.

Thanks to the patient and thorough investigations of Mr. R. E. Nicholas, of Bitterne Park, Hampshire, the correct remedy is available, and a trustworthy vermifuge, safe even for the youngest and smallest pups, is provided. This is the 'Ruby' mixture which Mr. Sewell recommends in his invaluable *Dogs' Medical Dictionary*—a fine stand-by, this book, and a very present stay for the amateur in time of kennel trouble—the specific now relied upon by practically all knowledgeable breeders.

As with every known form of vermifuge, its efficacy is dependent upon care and correctness in its administration. Given that, it is unfailing, and for this reason is rightly accounted an inestimable boon to the breeders and keepers of dogs, the prudent among whom are careful to provide themselves with 'Ruby' as soon as their puppies arrive. Its value as a vermifuge holds for all whelps up to the age of about six months; but no later. Thereafter, should the pest reappear, the Santonin and Areca-nut treatment should be adopted; and here—even more than with 'Ruby'—scrupulous care and exactitude in administration, and in preparation of the patients for administration, is essential to success. Here again Mr. Nicholas's research has been thorough; his advice is extremely well worth obtaining and following.¹

Authorities differ somewhat with regard to the interesting question of the precise age at which puppies may best be weaned. It is necessary to pay due regard to the conditions of each individual case—the endurance, health and capacity of the mothers, no less

¹ See Appendix, 'A Postscript on Parasites.'

than the needs of the whelps. General conditions being favourable, I, personally, prefer the eleventh or twelfth week for this important development, and, conditions being normal, would certainly vote against weaning before the ninth week of the puppies' lives. The process is simple enough, rightly approached, especially for the rearer who has been wise enough to give the pups their first lessons in feeding at a really early stage; say, the end of the third week. Withal, never forget that it does represent a critical stage in a puppy's early development, and must be handled with scrupulous care. The secret of success in weaning—and what I mean by 'success' is the avoidance of any set-back in the growth of the youngsters—is to make it gradual; a series of gentle and methodical steps, and no jumps, or stumbles. (It is rarely possible truly to 'make-up' afterwards for any serious set-back in a pup's early development.)

Thus, during the first few days of weaning, the puppies should be kept away from the dam during two separate day-time periods of two to three hours each, and served with a meal before being allowed access again to their mother. Then, for a few days let there be three, instead of two, of these interludes, each being followed by a light meal before the pups return to the dam. Thereafter, let matters be so arranged that mother and whelps are separated throughout the day, from daylight till dark, three or four light meals being given to the puppies during this period, the last shortly before they are returned to their mother for the night.

The next and final step is the removal of the dam from the puppies' quarters altogether. By this time, her secretion of milk will probably have become very slight. Be careful that her diet for a few days now is somewhat spare, of a cooling nature, and not calculated to stimulate milk secretion. If the milk glands should



BLOODHOUND PUPPIES AT THE AGES OF
4 MONTHS AND 8 MONTHS

give her any trouble, these should be massaged gently with a suitable lotion, probably containing laudanum.

If the weather is at all cold, you must use care at this stage to secure a reasonable degree of warmth at night in the puppies' quarters, for they will miss the protective shelter of their mother's flanks. You will see to it, of course, that they are provided with a generous supply of clean straw bedding. During the first three or four days of their complete separation from the mother, the puppies should be given as many as six light meals during each twenty-four hours; the first as soon as possible after sun-up, and the last as late as possible; for choice, not earlier than nine o'clock in the evening. This apparently ample division of meals may seem to you unnecessary and troublesome, even for a few days; but it really is important (*a*) to prevent any check in development; and (*b*) because all puppies' meals should be *light* enough to leave them ready for just a little more than is given them, anything in the nature of gorging being in very many ways injurious.

After, say, three days, the time-table may be reduced to a daily five meals; and, three or four days after that, to four meals; the first still being given at the earliest possible hour. The four-meal regime should be continued until the puppies are four months old. From then to eight or nine months they require three daily meals. (This is a period of wonderfully rapid growth and all-round development, where the dietary is what it should be; as may be judged from the accompanying snap-shot of a couple of Bloodhound puppies taken at the ages, respectively, of four months and eight months.) Thereafter, for a couple of months, the midday meal may be made no more than a snack, and then omitted altogether. Two daily meals should be given, according to the condition and the variety of the dogs concerned,

up to the age of from twelve months to eighteen months. Thereafter, for all grown dogs in health, one square meal and one light snack represent an adequate daily diet.

For their proper development, always remember that puppies want, not mere filling—that can easily be overdone, with disastrous results—but *feeding*; carefully thought-out, generous, scientific nutriment, for the building up of their young frames and constitutions.

Because they are definitely carnivorous, not omnivorous, as we are, and very specifically not herbivorous, this means a generous supply of proteids, and, especially, of flesh, fish, and animal food generally. But it does not mean a diet of chops, steaks and sausages, which, apart from other disadvantages, would soon tend to bankrupt the average dog-owner.

Find out who among the tradesmen serving your home are the most sportingly inclined; which butcher and fishmonger take any interest in animals, or can be interested at all in dogs. Quite often they prove upon enquiry to be very decent in such matters. Then, having sized up your likely requirements, see if you cannot establish most favoured nation relations, so to say, with the fishmonger and the butcher, enabling you to obtain at stated intervals such and such quantities of what they call fish 'offal' which includes heads, and pieces, and the very generous proportions of flatfish that are discarded in the filleting process; and, from the butcher, all manner of good, sound, lean 'pieces,' paunches, heads and various other oddments of high food value.

Needless to say, you will never give your puppies the run of their teeth among fish 'offal'; but, with prolonged slow stewing, you will obtain from it a broth of very high nutritive value indeed, such as sets to the

sort of jelly you can stand on. Similar treatment will give great value to many unconsidered trifles the butcher can let you have at very cheap rates. Quick cooking is no use for such provender. Long, slow simmering is the thing, in a 'steamer' of sorts—not in water. A Parish Cooker is the best kennel adjunct of the kind known to me; and, like most 'steamers,' will stand conveniently on one of the cylindrical type of stoves, that accept as fuel almost any sort of rubbish, as well as coke, or coal 'slack,' and are generally suitable for kennel use. Such a stove and cooker make the dog-keeper, not independent of cook and her kitchen—that suggests a reckless and highly impolitic attitude!—but able to avoid unnecessary demands upon indoor domestic patience and good will.

For the sake of your own interest in this important job, no less than for the well-being of your puppies, you will find it pays 'hand over fist,' as sailors say, to think out studiously this whole question of puppy dietary, and precisely the scope of your practical aims in choosing and arranging it. Don't forget the importance of dryness, and of a certain element of roughness (combined with scrupulous order and cleanliness) in dogs' food; the qualities that stimulate and enforce gnawing, tearing, chewing, and all that gustatory exercise which makes for good dentition and digestion.

Do not jump at the line of least resistance. Suspect substitutes, and allegedly time-saving 'made-up' or synthetic food preparations. No 'essence' preserved for profit ever equalled good home-made 'stock.' Shun as it were poison—as it truly is—the 'near enough' or 'that'll do' standard. Be methodical, punctual, faithful, consistent, abjuring religiously the deadly 'when convenient' attitude. Thriftiness, in its true sense real economy, makes more often than extravagance

for success in dog-feeding, especially where puppies are concerned.

For example, when considering bone-making, never feel obliged to buy more or less expensive bottles of this or that syrup or other concoction, in order to obtain, say, phosphate of lime. Ascertain the exact chemical or other constituent required, and get your chemist to supply that. So shall you very often get greater benefits from the outlay of tuppence-ha'penny than one-and-eleven!

Remember always that the puppies you rear, partly even in character and disposition, very largely indeed in permanent health and physique, must necessarily and always be just what your feeding makes them.

The wise dog-owner sees to it that the weaning process is accompanied by other forms of education. Rightly handled, with affection and patience, as well as firmness, you will find the pups at this stage very teachable, and by no manner of means unintelligent. But it is unfair and impolitic to expect them to learn without proper teaching, and reasonable encouragement, informed by patience and perfectly-controlled temper. (The proper education of puppies is quite an education for oneself.) If a selfish kind of incentive is required, as, for example, in the matter of teaching puppies complete cleanliness in their quarters, answering calls, and the like, let the rearer remember that these little first steps in education are likely greatly to facilitate profitable sales, and to build up one quite important aspect of his kennel's reputation.

And that brings one naturally to another important stage—the disposal of such whelps as you do not intend to keep for yourself. In this connexion, I think you will always find that, broadly speaking, puppies may be sold just as readily, and for as good a price, soon after

weaning as at the age of five or six months; while, as is perfectly obvious, it is more desirable, and profitable, for the breeder or rearer to choose the earlier period, thereby saving himself both expense and the ordinary risks and hazards attached to rearing your stock. These risks, be it remembered, are considerably greater where a considerable number is concerned than where there are only a few puppies. Greater individual attention can be given to two or three than to a dozen or more; and individual attention is the thing which, more than any other, ensures the nearest possible approach to perfection of development.

By all means seek expert counsel, and weigh with care the relative merits of your puppies before disposing of any. That is common sense. But, this done, it is unwise to allow either sentimental or material considerations to delay the selling of the major part of the litter. Especially, perhaps, for those who look forward to the rearing of future litters, does this apply to the male pups. The weaning process successfully accomplished, one should be able with some confidence to select the best dog puppy; the likeliest potential champion. Or it may be that the litter does not include even one dog puppy of whom such hopes may reasonably be entertained. In that case it is not unwise to let them all go. Even though the event may ultimately prove that you have under-estimated the merit of one such puppy; even though you should part with one which subsequently achieves championship honours while in other hands—there is here no real ground for chagrin or lamenting. Remember that the breeder's name will accompany the prize-winning youngster from first to last, and the prestige of his kennel will be enhanced only slightly less than if the prizes themselves came to him.

The bitch puppies come into a somewhat different category. Their sex gives them peculiar quality and value as kennel foundation material, and, accordingly, disposal of them merits specially careful consideration; and, quite apart from prize-winning possibilities, it may well prove desirable to retain a couple from a given litter, if their blood be all that a breeder could desire, and if their physique and frames, at the age of three or four months, should be such as to mark them out as possessed of distinguished excellence as future mothers of their race.

The simplest method of finding suitable buyers for puppies is to advertise them in the dog journals, with mention of their pedigree. I hold it perfectly permissible to decline the risks of sending young puppies on long journeys, 'on approval.' The enquirer who does not care either to take the wisest course of coming to see the puppies in their own home, or to purchase on the strength of written detail, may fairly be left to pursue his quest elsewhere. On the other hand, to the possible purchaser who does come to see for himself, the seller owes, both as a matter of courtesy and of policy, all the best that he can give in the form of information and assistance in the examination and comparison of the whelps for disposal.

Again as a matter both of permanent policy, consideration for the buyer, and, not less, consideration for the puppies, too, the seller should insist upon providing with every puppy sold, not alone his pedigree sheet, but also a detailed *diet sheet*, showing precisely the number and the nature of the meals being furnished to the pup at the time of sale. This is of first rate importance, especially when dealing with beginners in dog-keeping. Its observance or neglect will often make all the difference between after success and failure in the

puppy's life, not to mention satisfaction or disappointment for the buyer. And the buyer's permanent satisfaction always ranks first among the aims of a wise seller.

The breeding and rearing of pedigree puppies endears them greatly to the dog-keeper's heart—if he be naturally a friend and admirer of their race. And if you are not that, I would strongly advise you never to take to breeding or rearing at all, because, without real affection and keenness, as well as patience, you would be very unlikely to achieve success in it. Withal, it is manifestly impracticable to follow this delightful hobby, and pursuit without regularly and systematically disposing of the major proportion of the young stock raised. This being indubitably so, one must shape one's plans accordingly, and submit cheerfully to the inevitable wrench involved in parting with cherished youngsters. And, as the parting is inevitable, it is better accomplished early than late, profitably rather than unprofitably. That is why I am all for disposal as soon as may be after weaning.

CHAPTER XII

GOOD HEALTH

A QUESTIONNAIRE was recently addressed to one of the leading veterans among English dog-breeders. It took this form:

‘ Would you favour us with a brief, concise expression of your views under the following two heads:

(a) Advice to the amateur on how to doctor dogs.
(b) General policy and methods regarding disease and illness in dogs.’

In his reply, which arrived on a post-card, the veteran showed clearly that he had not forgotten the words ‘ brief, concise.’ The answer read:

‘ (a) Don’t.
(b) Avoid ’em.’

For some not very enlightening, perhaps, I would suggest that this curt reply contains for others more than a hint of wise and practical guidance. Thus, if the unsupported ‘ Don’t ’ falls short of comprehensiveness as ‘ advice to the amateur on how to doctor dogs,’ let me suggest, by way of amplification: Don’t attempt dog-doctoring, in the sense of giving dogs physic, without

professional veterinary guidance, and reasonable certainty that the medicine is really needed. In similar fashion, 'Avoid 'em,' as a summing-up of policy regarding disease and illness in dogs, may be interpreted thus:

Prevention is infinitely better, and, in the upshot, both easier and cheaper, than cure. Rationally-bred dogs are pre-disposed to good health. Correctly-reared dogs, properly fed, housed, groomed, exercised and generally cared for, rarely fall ill. When they do, the strength and condition given them by their good rearing will frequently enable them to throw off their indisposition without the aid of physic, if Nature is helped, instead of being hindered by the watchful dog-keeper's care, which will ensure to the patient suitable diet, warmth, cleanliness, comfort *and rest*. And so by far the best way to treat 'disease and illness in dogs' truly *is* to 'avoid 'em'; and consistently rational care in dog-keeping—most notably in feeding—carries the amateur a surprisingly long way toward realisation of this happy ideal.

It is perfectly true that even the most correct feeding and scrupulous general regime will not yield positive immunity from such contagious diseases as distemper. (That will come, one hopes, when the work of the Distemper Research Fund gives us the adequate vaccine or anti-toxin.) But, even where such scourges are concerned, the rightly-reared dog is vastly better off than his less well-cared for fellows, (*a*) because frequently able to resist contagion altogether, and (*b*) because so well fortified by good, clean, generous living that he often contracts the disease only in its very mildest form—so slight sometimes as never to be detected even by the veterinary expert—and is easily capable of throwing it off, not only without physic but

also without appreciable check in his normal development.

Yes, considered as advice upon 'policy and methods regarding disease and illness in dogs,' there is a great deal more to be said for the veteran's laconic 'Avoid 'em' than the patent medicine vendors would admit; or—and this is the more important point—than the great majority of dog-keepers realise. Even where physicking has become genuinely necessary, some quite experienced dog-keepers may, and do, make the mistake of overrating its sovereign efficacy, or of underrating the vital import of other factors in relation to doctoring: such as feeding, housing, rest, fresh air, cleanliness and everything that goes with good nursing. That these remarks imply no depreciation of the value of either the skill of professionally-qualified dog-doctors, or of the drugs prescribed by them, may easily be gathered from study of the views of some of the foremost canine specialists themselves.

Thus, in the very practical hand-book on *Canine Distemper* by Mr. Louis Sewell, M.R.C.V.S., etc., I find it stated, with regard to the relative importance of medicines and nursing, that it is quite safe to say that in most cases the one is no good without the other. A professional veterinary view, remember. Again, such recognised authorities as Mr. R. E. Nicholas have laid it down that it is always wrong to give dogs physic for any such inadequate reason as to 'keep them healthy,' and that 'Well-fed and well-managed dogs seldom need any medicine at all; and the less they have the better. . . . Good food is the best condition powder; and meat beats all the drugs in creation for keeping dogs healthy and happy. . . . Better never to let a dog run down than ever so carefully to tone it up afterwards.'



Photo by

Fall

ROU G. J. HARRI D. FERRIER

[p. 132

My own experience having long since convinced me, rightly or wrongly, that by far the major proportion of all doggy ills are preventable, and that such prevention, in all respects better, is also cheaper and easier than doctoring, I feel it not less than a duty, alike to dogs and to their human friends, to emphasise this point.

But the need for dog-doctoring must sometimes arise; that is undeniable. If and when real illness does declare itself in a dog, the first steps you should take—and these please take with the least possible delay—are (a) to separate the patient from his fellows, and see that he is comfortably established in reasonably warm quarters—temperature about 60 degrees F.—with a sufficiency of fresh air, and no draughts or damp; and (b) to obtain professional veterinary examination and advice. Neglect and delay in the matter of these two first steps are likely to cost any dog-keeper a good deal in time and money and anxiety, and may even cost the patient its life. Expert diagnosis and advice having been obtained, the rest will depend mainly upon nursing, which includes all general care, the most vital part of which is generally feeding.

On no account permit yourself to accept the common but quite erroneous assumption that the most suitable diet for a human invalid will prove the best for a dog. For example, beef tea and chicken, both so acceptable in the human sick-room, are frequently of little or no value in the kennel, where properly-prepared lean beef and cooked rabbit, neither of them very likely to suit the human patient, are frequently invaluable, even in dire extremes.

Rabbit flesh is not only generally more tempting to a very sick dog, even when he will touch nothing else, than chicken; it is also generally of more value, and more easily assimilated. Even milk, invaluable though

it is at times, and in certain forms, is by no manner of means always to be desired as a food for sick dogs; and, indeed, by itself it seldom is very serviceable, though often of value when given with eggs and other foods, and certain patent preparations. Scraped lean beef, raw, is invaluable in canine sickness, in the same way that raw, sound lean meat and good biscuit are the most valuable of all foods for dogs in health. But there are, of course, times when its use is not desirable; notably where fever is present. Most of the meat extracts sold are of comparatively small value except as stimulants. But stimulants, including alcohol, notably pure brandy, are valuable medicines in cases of extreme canine prostration.

Spoon-feeding—never on the tongue or direct to the throat; always in the pouch at the side of the dog's lips—should be postponed as long as possible, and only adopted when all else fails; partly because food so given is never so profitably or readily assimilated as food taken naturally, and again because the sick dog sometimes proves curiously slow in returning to normal methods after drenching or enforced feeding. When the patient refuses food, it should never be left with him, but always taken away after a few minutes, even though it is to be offered again in a short while.

It is but right to warn you against undertaking the nursing of *seriously* sick dogs unless you are willing and able to devote full-time care and attention to the task, which, remember, is far from being a light one. The canine patient should be better off in his own home than in any dog-hospital; but, if full-time care cannot be given to him in his own home, it were better for him that he should be consigned to the care of expert strangers. The best conditions of all are those in which the patients can remain in their own home, and there be

given the unremitting care and attention of a skilled nurse.

Because dogs are unable to express themselves in human speech, too many humans, even among their best friends and admirers, incline greatly to underrate the extent and scope of the dog's understanding of human speech, tone, manners and expression.

In the nursing of dogs that are seriously ill, sympathetic understanding of canine psychology and nervous temperament is hardly less important than knowledge of dogs' bodies. To dismiss such considerations as faddy or sentimental is gravely to curtail one's chances of success in dog-keeping. Thus, in writing of the importance of the part played in the work of dog doctors and nurses by all those blends of policy and sympathy, craft and tact, which are indicated by the phrase 'bedside manner,' Mr. Louis Sewell, M.R.C.V.S. writes:

'This is equally necessary for the veterinary surgeon and the nurse. . . . The importance of getting and keeping the patient's confidence cannot be over-estimated, and it very often makes the difference as to whether a case develops nervous symptoms or not. . . . Bedside manner in the form of kindness, pleasantness and unlimited patience will often keep a dog on its food, whereas the lack of these qualities will often have the result that the patient has to be spoon-fed, from which the dog does not derive half as much benefit as if he took the food naturally. . . . If the nurse knows, or even has an idea, that the dog is going to die, the dog should not be allowed to guess this. I do not claim that the dog can read the nurse's altered views on his case, but, when the nurse believes the end cannot be far

off, there is perhaps a tendency—quite unconscious, I firmly believe—to allow his attention to slack off, and this the dog would undoubtedly sense. . . . The altered behaviour would react on the patient in his weak condition, with fatal results.’

To which, for your consideration, I will only presume to add what I have many a time proved for myself: (a) When a sick dog gets to the point of, so to say, turning his face to the wall, and ceasing to desire or fight for his life, he thereby desperately decreases his chances of recovery, and greatly increases the difficulty of the task of his nurse. (b) The influence of the nurse is potent, either to prevent or to bring about this extremely undesirable condition in the dog. With many highly-bred and sensitive dogs, accustomed to intelligent intimacy with human friends, and to courteous and considerate dealings with all about them, a slight display of harshness or impatience, even a little indication of hopelessness, in the crises of illness, will often have deadly results. Such dogs are appreciably affected by the slightest inflexions in one’s voice, even when in normal health. When prostrated by weakness and disease, they can be, in some matters, more sensitive than the average human patient.

And it is just as well to admit and recognise that it is no slight amount of patience, tact and endurance which is demanded for the successful nursing of dogs in serious illness. Affection for the patient, and for dogs in general, should always prove helpful; but of itself it is not enough. There is required also, in addition to skill and experience, exceptional patience, perseverance and physical and nervous endurance. That is why I said that, despite the obvious advantages of home treatment, it is better for the patient to be sent to a

properly-equipped dog-hospital (in serious illness), unless a qualified person is able, and willing, to make a full-time job of nursing.

For example, when distemper patients have reached, as they sometimes will, a condition of complete prostration, in which they show no consciousness of anything in their environment, the most scrupulous day-time care will avail them little, if they are to be left to take their chances alone through eight or ten hours of the night—especially in winter-time. Such sufferers are extremely likely to slip their cables between the hours of midnight and 4 or 5 a.m.; to pass out with a sigh, too exhausted to exercise the will to live, from a crisis from which they would have emerged to recovery if only understanding human aid had been available at the right moment.

Another point which ought not to be omitted from even the most cursory consideration of 'general policy and methods regarding disease and illness in dogs,' and, very specially, such highly-contagious disease as distemper, is the sort of consideration demanded for the protection of other dogs—your own, and those of your neighbours. It is obvious that the dog-keeper who has distemper in his kennels ought not to visit other kennels or dog shows, to receive brood bitches for stud services, or to send dogs from his own kennels to others, or to shows. It is but fair and sportsmanlike in such circumstances to warn off every kind of visitor; if necessary, by the display of a placard: "No Admittance! Distemper Here!" or the like. The best possible kit for one who is nursing distemper cases consists of the usual overall kennel-coat—to be worn nowhere else but in the infected kennels—breeches and gum boots. Footwear and the hems of trousers or skirts are certain to pick up and carry infection; and the advantage of

rubber boots is that they can without trouble be plunged into a bucket of antiseptic solution.

The writer has reared pedigree dogs who, despite the hazards of breeding and exhibiting, have never known a day's real illness, from the nest to the grave. That is one point worth remembering. Another is that—like many another dog-keeper, I dare say—I have, at least once, known the delight and privilege of pulling through to the subsequent enjoyment of perfect health and all the activities of successful maternity, a canine mother of champions of whom a qualified veterinary specialist had regretfully announced that he would not visit her again, as she could not possibly survive more than a very few hours. (Her crisis came at 3 a.m. on a cold morning, and from it she certainly would not have emerged alive lacking the spoonful of warm brandy and beef-juice, the supporting arm, and the watchfully-regulated temperature, that were hers then, as at high noon.) That is another item on the cheery, credit side.

But, to be sure, the best thing about the whole business of the treatment of dogs in illness and disease is the fact that, nine times in ten, it is perfectly possible, and not very difficult, to adopt the previously-quoted advice of the veteran breeder, and—'Avoid 'em!' There is danger, as there is fundamental error, in the whole attitude of mind which countenances 'conditioning dogs for show,' and dosing them with this and that belauded nostrum by way of pick-me-up when they become 'run-down.' The wisest and most successful keeper of dogs, believe me, is he, or she, whose dogs are maintained in 'show condition'—that is, in the best attainable state of health—the whole year round; who feels that it is no more creditable to have to admit the 'run-down' state than it would be to admit under-feeding, or absence of cleanliness. And, for all such,

canine disease and illness present few terrors, by reason (*a*) of their rarity, and (*l*) of the fact that dogs so kept can almost invariably throw off with ease any indisposition that may attack them.

If upon a basis of sincere affection for dogs you can bring to bear the influence of thoroughness, consistence, close and watchful observation, and good humour, combined with that modest openness of mind which enables one always to go on learning, then, in addition to finding unfailing stores of interest and delight in dog-keeping, you are pretty certain to achieve all-round success in it.

APPENDIX I

A POSTSCRIPT ON DOG-BREEDING

I

ONE of the aphorisms of a certain Sheshawni Moor, who greatly helped me to study dogs and men and other animals in Morocco, took this form:

“ To know men you must have fought them; to know women you must have beaten them; to know horses you must have drunk the wind on their backs; to know *esloghi* you must have bred them.”

Esloghi—here spelt as pronounced—is the name given by the Moors to their hunting-dogs, and presumably derives from the Arabic root as the ‘ Saluki ’ of our present-day Kennel Club nomenclature.

Whatever we may think about fighting—not to mention my Moor’s notions about women-beating!—it is true enough that one does learn something of horses by galloping them over the sort of country most familiar to the Sheshawni Moor, and still more is it true that one learns very much about dogs by breeding them; much, perhaps, that it is impossible to learn in any other way. One reason of this is the relative simplicity and rapidity of the processes involved. It is possible to compare living dogs, still in their prime, with half a dozen successive generations of their own offspring. Thus, even to the least imaginative observer, dog-breeding will bring concrete demonstrations of the wonders of heredity and eugenics. The constructive—indeed, the creative—element enters very markedly into dog-breeding; and this has much to do with its undeniable fascination. The deliberate planning of the physique and character of future generations of creatures so closely and intimately connected with our own lives, to be followed by wonderfully speedy realisation of our plans in living flesh and personality—here is a pursuit that well may prove absorbing to any intelligent

mortal, and that, when it goes with understanding affection for the canine race, does naturally return a rich yield of interest and instruction.

The motives actuating beginners in the art and craft of dog-breeding differ greatly, ranging all the way from the chance-begotten impulse to the carefully-thought-out determination to found a kennel, or create a distinctive strain. Sometimes the aim is simply that of securing a natural heir and successor for a proved friend and favourite; and this motive would far more frequently be acted upon than it is but for the somewhat exaggerated view taken by many, who never have tested them, of the difficulties and hazards to be faced in breeding. There are difficulties, of course, as in every other enterprise worth tackling; but they none of them are such as need deter anyone whose interest is seriously engaged.

Whatever the nature of the aims and motives involved, lives and personalities are concerned, and therefore the adventure ought not lightly or carelessly to be undertaken, but only with care and deliberate forethought. It is creative work, and therefore, if to be done at all, to be done as well and truly as possible. No matter what the ultimate objective, it is well that the beginning should be modest and on a small scale. Even to the best informed, experience will quite certainly bring improved understanding; and, in every branch of this undertaking, quality is vastly more important than quantity, and one authentic success more to be desired than a dozen essays which simply pass muster, or than any number of partial failures.

By happy flukes, beginners have before now bought puppies destined to fame as stud-dogs, or as the mothers of champions. But the wisest first step for the would-be breeder is to obtain a good, sound brood bitch; and, upon the whole, it is probably best to obtain an already tried and proven mother; or, at least, a fully-grown and developed bitch, as near as may be due for mating. The selection of the brood bitch is a matter of the greatest possible importance. The influence of fashion and the prestige attaching to the names of famous champion dogs may tend somewhat to belittle, in the eyes of the novice, the importance of the dam, which, in fact, it would be difficult to exaggerate; for the probabilities are that the influences of heredity act just as strongly through

the dam as through the sire, and to the dam is entrusted, not alone the pre-natal carrying of the whelps, but also their nutrition during the first crucial weeks after birth.

There is a widely-spread popular belief that, so far at all events as outward appearance is concerned, the pre-potent influence of the canine sire is more definitely marked in puppies than that of the dam. For the theory there is just this much justification: owing to the weight given to fashion and prestige, the sire does, in fact, frequently represent a longer chain of inherited and consistent excellence in points and type than the dam. Where that is so, the influences of his prepotency may well prove the more marked in the puppies. Rightly understood, neither these nor any other considerations should betray the breeder into any underrating of the importance of the brood bitch.

It is quite true that the most admirable brood bitch may happen to fall short in the matter of certain show points. She may be one who would not be very likely to win the highest honours in the form of prizes at shows. But it is essential that she should approach as near as possible to perfection in robustness of constitution and soundness of physique. And it is no less essential that in the true sense her pedigree also should be as near as possible to perfection. And here it is well to fully consider the true significance of pedigree. It does not mean that the bitch's sire or dam must have been very famous or singularly handsome individuals. What it does mean is that throughout a long succession of generations her ancestors should have attained a high general *level*, or average, of uniform excellence. It is *family* character and traits which give vital importance to pedigree, far more than individual peculiarities, however marked or admirable.

Another important point, sometimes overlooked, is the matter of temperament and disposition. Kindness, docility, gentleness and an affectionate nature—these are most valuable qualities in the mother-to-be, and in her ancestors.

Supposing, for the sake of illustration, that the breeder's objectives include, as specially desirable ends, great height of body and length of head, it is far more important that the pedigree of his chosen brood bitch should show a long line of sustained and uniform *correctness* in these two points than that she herself should stand phenomenally high at the shoulder or possess an exceptionally long head. The repro-

duction of consistently-maintained family characteristics the breeder may safely expect, but not the reproduction of individual extremes. Despite the indubitable fact that no two individuals are precisely alike, the most valuable of all qualities to be achieved in breeding is uniformity—the highest *level* of excellence.

In the matter of the selection of sires, the average beginner in dog-breeding is inclined to attach rather more than its due weight to the idea that he must choose the most fashionable of champion dogs in order to command a satisfactory market for his puppies. The thought is a natural one enough, but even from a purely economic aspect, too much weight may easily be attached to it; and in this connection it is well to remember certain important considerations, such as the following:

In practically all breeds there are several champion dogs of different strains available at stud. It is quite safe to say that the wise breeder's choice will fall, not upon the most fashionable among these champions, but upon the one among them whose pedigree is best suited for mating with that of the particular brood bitch in question.

Again, in the monetary sense, no less than for various other reasons, a few—even one—whelps of really outstanding excellence will prove of much greater value than many of no more than average merit. Especially is this true where the beginner is concerned. For him in particular, with all his prestige to make, the production of one positively first-rate puppy is a notably bigger achievement than the production of many champion-sired mediocrities.

While I do not for a moment suggest that the champion dog's winning of show honours necessarily militates against his fitness as a sire, it is none the less obvious that the extremely fashionable champion who figures in the limelight at all important shows in every part of the country, is sometimes overstrained by his public appearances to the point of being made less fit than he otherwise would be, as a sire.

These are typical of points worth weighing in the scale against the beginner's temptation to be influenced unduly by fashionable repute and show records.

Another common pitfall for the novice is the naïve and widely accepted notion that in the selection of canine mates a given form of excess, or fault, in one parent is to be

corrected by its opposite—an opposite fault or excess, that is—in the other parent.

Supposing, for example, that the brood bitch, otherwise excellent, is noticeably too small and slight; markedly below the average of her kind in this respect. Such and such a champion sire in her variety is peculiarly massive, inclining markedly to coarseness, and remarkably bigger than the average in his variety. Here, says the inexperienced breeder, is the ideal mate for my undersized bitch. And in this he may be disastrously wrong. This particular sire's massive bigness may perhaps stamp him as almost a freak in his breed. If so, he represents a specially unfortunate choice as a mate for a bitch who, on her side, is freakish, or exceptional, in another and opposite direction. It is not at all safe to argue that the offspring of two such mates are likely to prove uniformly big, or uniformly small; but it is highly probable that their puppies will show very marked variations; that in them will be reproduced the tendency to abnormality which characterises their parents; in short, that they will represent the antithesis of the wise breeder's chief aim: a high *level* of excellence.

The right choice of sire for such a bitch is the dog of all-round physical excellence and fidelity to type, in whose ancestry may be found a consistently high level of all-round merit, with complete freedom from atavism, or lapses into extremes of any kind approximating to abnormality or freakishness. The ideal is to mate the most admirable uniformity with the most admirable uniformity. To correct blemishes or excesses one must by no means ally them with blemishes or excesses, of the opposite kind, but, on the contrary, only with long-proven immunity from these.

It is perhaps unnecessary specifically to insist upon the importance of physical soundness, structural correctness, constitutional robustness, and perfect health and condition in the chosen sire. It is unfortunately a fact that, in the urgency of their desire to give to their puppies the lustre of the name of a specially famous prize-winning dog, some beginners (and even fanciers who have not the excuse of being beginners) are willing to overlook physical defects in an ultra-fashionable sire. In sober fact, no conceivable show-ring record can, from the breeder's standpoint, compensate for weak pastern joints, groggy legs, a tendency

toward hereditary disease, or constitutional delicacy of any kind. Whilst it is perfectly true that no dog, however imposing as an individual specimen, can be a desirable sire if his ancestry is made dubious by its lapses into inferiority, it is also true that, to be worthy of choice for stud service, a dog must be perfectly sound in himself, as an individual, and in the best possible condition.

There are, of course, many other forms of individual freakishness and abnormality, besides those connected with bigness or littleness, of the whole animal, or of given features. To all the same considerations apply, for the breeder. Marked shyness, timidity, moroseness, irritability and the like are as scrupulously to be avoided in the chosen sire (or dam) as faulty physique. So also is any abnormality in the direction of an approach to asexuality. Be sure that your chosen sire looks and is thoroughly a *dog*; healthily and markedly masculine; by no manner of means one of the sometimes very beautiful creatures of whom fanciers remark that "he would have been a beautiful bitch."

Environment—so all-important a factor in breeding-operations—includes, of course, the dogs' human influences and associations, and state of mind and spirits, no less than the fundamental matters connected with housing, feeding, etc. Such considerations make the conduct of all arrangements connected with the mating important and worthy of the best care and attention that can be given them. Whenever this is at all possible, the breeder should himself escort his brood bitch, in preference to sending her alone, or in the care of anybody else, to the chosen stud-dog. Before this stage is reached, every care will have been taken to ensure the bitch being in the best possible condition of health, scrupulously free from parasites, internal or external—as far as may be, at the top of her form, and studiously protected from any form of physical or mental distress. Such considerations, rightly appreciated, are not in the least faddy or sentimental, but of real and practical importance. It is not only decent and kindly, but logical and politic to make every effort to secure a happy mating, and to see to it that the mother-to-be is as well and content as you can make her.

Before entering upon the fascinating practice of dog-breeding, the beginner, no matter what his experience in dog-keeping, will rightly wish to give some study and thought

to its theory. A good deal of attention is devoted to it in *Everybody's Dog Book* (Collins, fifth edition, 3s. 6d.); and perhaps the most valuable and practical among the modern books which are devoted exclusively to it is 'Great Dane's' *The Principles and Practice of Scientific Dog-Breeding* (Toogood & Sons, Southampton; fifth edition, 2s. 6d.). An interesting modern work is Earl Bathurst's *The Breeding of Foxhounds* (Constable & Co., £1 1s.). *The Theory and Practice of Breeding to Type*, by C. J. Davies (Our Dogs Publishing Co., Manchester), is a valuable study of the subject.

2

More fortunate in a variety of ways than the followers of other hobbies, your amateur of dog-breeding has no dull initiatory periods to face; but, on the contrary, savours its many-sided fascination from the very moment of taking it up. His preliminary examination of its theory, as set forth for his delectation in books whose writers have given long years to its study and practice, he cannot but find rich in interest. And who could fail to be intrigued by the process of acquiring the ideal mother-to-be, and choosing the worthy mate for her? No, there is nothing of tedium, no dull periods of waiting, in the dog-breeder's first steps.

And then, the chosen dam once happily mated and back again in the home which is to be the theatre of her domestic drama—then, immediately, the breeder enters upon a phase of absorbingly interesting study and observation, his right appreciation of which will materially affect all that is to follow.

When he comes affectionately to ponder the delicately finished perfection of his first litter of puppies during their first weeks of life, the breeder is likely to find—as do many of his most experienced fellows—something of the miraculous in the fact that no more than a couple of months have elapsed since the inception of the whole wonderful business. (The canine period of gestation is sixty-three days, less than a quarter that of many other animals.) Having due regard to the wonderfully finished nature of the miracle accomplished by Nature in so brief a period, the interested amateur will appreciate fully the desirability of neglecting no helpful care that he can give during these two momentous months.

But though wonders are being accomplished in the time,

the bitch is likely to appear, and in fact to be, quite her normal self during the first month. She will take, and may quite safely be given her normal amount of exercise during these weeks; albeit never driven or encouraged to over-exertion, especially in any such direction as leaping, climbing or the like; nor unduly exposed to severe cold, wet or cutting winds. She should be well and generously fed during all this time; but never coaxed into over-eating, and, particularly not over-loaded with farinaceous foods. Let generosity apply rather to the nitrogenous foods, to flesh than to the starches. With her food, now, and throughout the nursing period to come, she may wisely be given small, slightly increasing doses of calcium phosphate (lime) in her food. There are special preparations which provide this in handy form, but it can, of course, be obtained more cheaply than in such guise. Its use is always desirable at these times, and very specially so in the case of the larger breeds, and the varieties in which bone-making is most important.

It is decidedly a good plan not to postpone later than the beginning of the second month of gestation the establishment of the bitch in her appointed breeding place or kennel. It is well that she should feel thoroughly at home in these quarters for a few weeks before the arrival of her whelps. Her bench should be raised not more than an easy step, say, six or eight inches, from the floor level of her quarters. Fresh air and *overhead* ventilation are important, but there must be no draughts near floor or bench level. If the season should be winter, and the cold at all severe, some very moderate artificial warmth may be introduced, at all events at night, as from a few days before whelping. Up to that time the bitch should have enjoyed the comfort of a generously deep bed of clean straw. But a week before the puppies are expected the safest plan is to clear away all vestige of litter of any kind. In its place, I would suggest the spreading over the bench of a good layer of perfectly dry sawdust, or peat, or tan, of, say, one or two inches in depth, the whole being well sprinkled with a good disinfectant powder. Over this, and securely tacked down all round, may be spread a cover of tough old carpet, or good 'American cloth' (lining uppermost), or similar material. Litter of any kind is likely to prove an embarrassment to the dam and to her pups, at all events during the first week.

While it is doubtless desirable to exercise all reasonable precaution during the weeks immediately preceding whelping, and to protect the dam from anything like violent physical stress and strain, also definitely to curtail her association and play with others of her kind, it is quite important that she should have reasonable and regular daily exercise throughout this whole period. The best and safest exercise she can be given towards its end, is quiet, steady walking; and if she is inclined to much independent activity, the walking had better be done on the lead. So far as diet is concerned, remember that the aim in view is very definitely not fattening, but good and generous nutrition, rather of the concentrated than the bulky kind. During the twenty-four hours preceding the due time for whelping, it is as well to confine the food to soft dishes, excluding bones and hard biscuit. Two or three fairly liberal doses of olive oil may helpfully accompany food during the forty-eight hours before the whelping.

When the time draws very near, the bitch needs a little judicious watching. But discretion must be used. Fussing must be avoided. The bitch should on no account be made to feel that she is being spied upon or too closely guarded. Left entirely to her own devices she would be quite likely to seek some such undesirable seclusion as the recesses of a dense shrubbery, and there to dig a cave or hollow for herself, which would prove highly unsuitable in her own and her family's interests. Therefore, during the last day or so, albeit taken out for walks as before, she should not be left at large, but kept, while alone, to her own quarters, which will, naturally, include an enclosed run available to her from her house.

When the critical time arrives, the breeder should use special tact in his observation of his charge; for some dams are extremely sensitive and nervous at these times, and may easily be betrayed into very serious blunders indeed, as the result of being fussed-over, or allowed to form the impression that their liberty or action is threatened; as to them it may seem to be, where the very kindest and most solicitous of humans are concerned.

In the actual delivery of her puppies it is best that the dam should be left to her own devices. Interruptions at this time are much to be deprecated. But it is true that the

need of help does sometimes arise, more particularly in the case of extremely flat-faced, short-muzzled dogs, such as the Bulldog, the Pekingese, the King Charles Spaniel, etc. The puppy arrives in the world in a delicate air-tight sac, and it is essential that this membrane should immediately be broken, to admit the newcomer to the outer air which gives it life in the world. Normally, the mother may safely be trusted very swiftly and competently to perform this little operation; but, in the varieties mentioned, it is sometimes difficult for her. Where anything like close observation is held necessary, it should be arranged that the observer—the dam's most familiar and trusted human friend—should keep out of her sight as much as possible between the arrival of the different puppies—possibly taking his observations, silently, through an overhead window. Especially if the intervals are at all prolonged, a little warm milk or, milk and water, or other milky drink, with, possibly, a spoonful of brandy in it, may helpfully be offered to the dam; but, unless it should be quite unavoidable, no attempt should be made to handle her, or to touch, or even closely examine the puppies.

All being well, the mother will settle down comfortably with her family, and suckle them adequately, after attending to all necessary cleansing, and administering the first life-giving massage with her tongue. But should undue delays occur, and the bitch show signs of great distress, those who have charge of her should at once seek expert veterinary assistance. In this, by all means let delay be avoided, but if she can get through the crisis without the intervention of outsiders, as nine times out of ten the healthy, kindly canine mother assuredly will, the less she has to face in the matter of interruption or outside interference of any kind whatever, the better for her and for her offspring. She will not need food (beyond the sort of very slight refreshment already indicated) for a number of hours after the arrival of her last puppy; and for a couple of days her meals, while nutritious as possible in quality, should be of the soft and sloppy kind. She should on no account be overloaded with cows' milk, as this is likely to make her own milk acid, and give the puppies a thoroughly bad start in life.

APPENDIX II

A POSTSCRIPT ON PARASITES

No informed authority is likely to dispute the sinister pre-eminence of Distemper among specific diseases that most directly cause canine mortality. Therein lies the obligation of every admirer of dogs to contribute what he can to the Distemper Research Fund. For by means of the painstaking labours which this Fund has made practicable, shall we presently obtain, if at all, immunity for our dogs from this scourge.

But putting aside for the moment the diseases contributing to canine mortality, what pest or peril is it which most gravely and universally threatens and undermines doggy health, thereby paving the way for the assaults of all forms of disease, to say nothing of those it directly causes, and materially lowering the standard of canine physique? The answer may quite certainly be given in a single word: Worms. Even where they do not destroy their victims, internal parasites ruin each year thousands of the choicest puppies bred, and reduce the frames and burden the lives of hundreds of thousands among the best dogs.

As in the matter of Distemper, so with Worms, it is possible for a dog to journey from the nest to the grave unscathed. But such immunity is very rare, and not even the most scrupulously careful dog-keeper can ensure it to his charges. Most fortunately, the pest has its positive remedies. That in spite of this it remains so deadly a scourge, and so frequent a cause of debility and disease, is due mainly (1) to the use of the specific remedies being neglected or delayed from carelessness, or lack of observation and diagnosis of worm-born troubles; and (2) to inaccurate administration of the remedies, and inadequate preparation of the patient for treatment. Even the best of the vermifuges is of very little use failing scrupulously correct preparation and administration.

Mention has previously been made of Mr. R. E. Nicholas, of Bitterne Park, Hampshire. I know of no other practical authority who has devoted so much research to this problem or achieved so great a success in the application of his laboriously-acquired and far-reaching knowledge. I am permitted to present here Mr. Nicholas's own admirably lucid and concise summing up of the correct method of treating dogs for Worms; and right glad I am to be enabled to pass on his wisdom for your use, having myself very thoroughly and repeatedly tested and proved its efficacy. Indeed I have already passed it on, through the post, to hundreds of breeders and fanciers, in parts as widely removed as Labrador and Tasmania, Winnipeg and Lahore, Eastern Europe and Western Africa. It is the essence of prolonged practical experience, epitomised and presented with shrewd common sense. That is why it steers one clear of failure.

It is to be remembered that this is the treatment for dogs aged eight months and over. Up to the age of six months, the safe and sure specific is the 'Ruby' remedy; touching which, application should be made direct to Mr. Nicholas, with exact particulars of the age and breed of the pups concerned.

Among common symptoms indicating the presence in a dog of internal parasites, may be included a rough, harsh, 'starey' coat, unpleasant breath and furred tongue, dry, harsh nostrils, a noticeably variable and capricious appetite, alternating between voracity and complete indifference to food, a twitching of the skin of the sides, an inclination to nuzzle or bite the flanks, sudden, startled glances at either flank, scraping the stern on the ground, an otherwise unaccountable tendency to emaciation and all-round 'poor-ness.'

Here then—the most practical guide of the sort I know—is Mr. Nicholas's wisdom for your use:

'Speaking after quite exceptional experience on the subject, I consider that the Santonin and Areca-nut treatment is unquestionably the best for general use. It rarely fails if properly carried out, and I have never known the least ill-effects follow. Unfortunately these drugs are seldom administered as they should be; and the remedies

are thus frequently blamed for what really results from their improper use. The correct method is as follows:

' For two days feed entirely (and rather sparingly in the case of adult dogs) on lean meat—either cooked or raw, and preferably cut up small—and dry crusts. Withhold bones altogether.

' On the third day give breakfast of meat, cut up small, and supper of bread and milk about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Then shut the dog up where it cannot possibly get any food, being careful that it has not hidden any dainties in its bed. At half-past nine or at ten o'clock administer a dose of castor-oil. In the case of young dogs, it is as well to give the oil in a little milk.

' On the morning of the fourth day give the Santonin in a teaspoonful of castor-oil. Twenty minutes later give the Areca-nut pill; half-an-hour later still give a dose of castor-oil; then give hot, sloppy, appetising breakfast; feed for the day on soft foods only.

' *Special Notes.*—It will be necessary to watch the dog after giving both castor-oil and Areca-nut, to see that it is not sick. If it shows the least symptoms of vomiting, hold its head up, nose pointing upwards, so that its head is almost at right angles with its body, and keep it so until the disposition to be sick has passed. A dog cannot vomit in this position.

' Never try to give a dog medicine while it is coughing, "gagging" or emitting any vocal sounds, whatsoever, lest the medicine "go the wrong way" and irritate the lungs.

' *Computing and Preparing the Doses.*—For the convenient computation of doses, dogs (excluding Toys) may be divided into three classes:

' Class I—including all dogs which, when matured, weigh from twelve to about twenty-four pounds, such as Fox-terriers, Cockers, etc.

' Class II—including all medium-sized dogs, such as Collies, Airedales, Retrievers, Pointers, Field and Clumber Spaniels, etc.

' Class III—including only the largest breeds, such as St. Bernards, Newfoundlands, Mastiffs and Great Danes.

' *The Doses of Castor-oil.*—Class I Dogs—Half a teaspoonful at eight months, increasing gradually to a full teaspoonful at twelve months. One tablespoonful is the correct dose for any adult dog of this class.

' Class II Dogs—One tablespoonful at eight months, increasing gradually to two tablespoonfuls at twelve months. Two tablespoonfuls is the correct dose for any adult dog of this class.

' Class III Dogs—One tablespoonful at eight months, increasing gradually to two tablespoonfuls at twelve months. Three tablespoonfuls is the correct dose for any adult dog of this class.

' Unless given in milk, castor-oil should always be warmed before use to ensure its running off the spoon quickly.

' *The Doses of Santonin.*—Class I Dogs—One grain at eight months old. Two grains at twelve months. Two grains are sufficient for any adult dog of this class.

' Class II Dogs—Two grains at eight months old. Three grains after twelve months old.

' Class III Dogs—Two grains at eight months old. Three grains after twelve months old.

' The required dose of this drug can be obtained from any chemist for *1d.* Rub it through the fingers to crush the larger crystals a little before putting it in the teaspoonful of oil. Santonin should never be given excepting in a teaspoonful of castor-oil.

' *The Doses of Areca-nut.*—Class I Dogs—Three-quarters level teaspoonful at eight months; one level teaspoonful at ten months; and nearly one and a half level teaspoonfuls after thirteen months.

' Class II Dogs—Two level teaspoonfuls at eight months; two and a half level teaspoonfuls at ten months; three level teaspoonfuls at twelve months; three and a half level teaspoonfuls at fourteen months; and four level teaspoonfuls after sixteen months.

' Class III Dogs—Same doses as Class II dogs up to eighteen months; four and a half level teaspoonfuls at eighteen months; five level teaspoonfuls at twenty months;

five and a half level teaspoonfuls at twenty-two months; and six level teaspoonfuls at twenty-four months.

‘ A quarter of a pound of nuts can be bought for a few pence, but a pennyworth will suffice for one or two dogs.

‘ Just before use (as Areca-nut loses its strength if exposed for long to the air in powder form) grind up the nuts on an ordinary nutmeg-grater, holding the nut in a pair of pincers to save the fingers being scratched. Heap up an old-fashioned silver teaspoon with the powder, and pass a knife blade along the edge, removing the surplus and leaving it level full. This is a level teaspoonful. The old-fashioned silver teaspoon is equal to the medical teaspoon and is slightly smaller than the ordinary plated spoon in common use.

‘ Measure off the required number of teaspoonfuls into a saucer and mix the powder into a pill or bolus with a drop or two of treacle and the point of a knife. Dip the fingers into flour to prevent the sticky mass adhering to them, and roll the pill or pills round. Roll them in flour to nicely coat them and hide their taste, and they are then ready for use. Push the pill well down the dog’s throat with the finger, shut its mouth quickly, and hold its head up till the pill is gone. In the case of unmanageable dogs, the pills may be rolled in thin slices of meat and thrown to the dog after it has been teased with the meat, thus ensuring the whole being quickly gulped down.

‘ If desired the treatment before detailed may be repeated after the lapse of a week or fortnight.’

APPENDIX III

A POSTSCRIPT ON DOGGY ORGANISATION AND PEOPLE

THE headquarters of British dogdom, and the fountain-head of authoritative information regarding British dogs, is the Kennel Club, 84 Piccadilly, London, W.1. Its organisation is comprehensive and remarkably efficient. Its secretary, Mr. H. T. W. Bowell, is the ideal man for the discharge of the onerous and many-sided duties of his post—unfailingly courteous and helpful. Its official organ is that admirable monthly journal, *The Kennel Gazette*, the free provision of which, along with a copy of each year's issue of that indispensable work of reference (unofficially known as 'The Dog-man's Bible'), *The Kennel Club Calendar and Stud Book*, is among the many valuable privileges attaching to membership and associate membership of the Kennel Club. The subscription for associateship is so moderate as to make it desirable even upon purely material grounds, for all breeders, fanciers and exhibitors of dogs. Lady fanciers and exhibitors having increased so greatly since the War, it is not surprising to find that membership of the Ladies Branch of the Kennel Club grows very rapidly.

Enquirers will find upon reference to the current issue of *The Kennel Club Calendar and Stud Book* classified lists of the names and addresses of the most prominent and successful exhibitors of the year, and, what many will find even more instructive, the specialist clubs devoted to the interests of all the different breeds, and the names of the breeders, along with the pedigrees, of the most distinguished dogs of the same period. By the courtesy of the secretary of the Kennel Club, and the editor of the Stud Book, some brief, typical extracts from these lists are here presented; but for anything like the full measure of guidance to be obtained from them readers should refer to the pages of the Stud Book itself, which is easily the best and most comprehensive work of reference of its kind in the world.

