

THE KENNEL.

At the annual show of the English Fox-terrier Club held at Brighton, most of the crack terriers competed, but there was a lack of striking merit in most of the young dogs. The *Stockkeeper* remarks that in the wire-hairs "coats seem to have made general progress, heads are nearly all good, and ears, which were formerly so large, are now neater and better carried. To an outsider comparing the smooths and the wires the thought would occur that whilst quality has made general improvement the size of the wires is within more reasonable proportions than the smooths, especially in the dog section. The smooth bitch class was probably one of the best we have seen on the sawdust for some time." The influence of Venio was very marked amongst the smooths, and the improvement amongst the wires was also due to one or two sires.

Smooth open dogs brought out Visto, Claude Duval, Adam Bede, and Valuator, who were placed as named; Compton Dollar, Donington, Lyons Crafty and Kilworth Baron were v.h.c. Open bitches saw Dame Fortune, Hester Sorrell, Lyons Forward and Principia in the places, with Becky Morgan and Dunelm Treasure v.h.c. Mr F. Redmond's Donna Fortuna won in the limit class and carried off the Club Cup, for which her dam, Dame Fortune, and Visto were her opponents. Donna Fortuna also won most of the valuable specials, making Mr Redmond's winnings the largest he has yet achieved at one show, great though some of his previous triumphs have been. He won £240 in cash besides cups and specials.

The wire-haired open class, dogs, was headed by Go Bang (the Cup winner), with Tipton Slasher second, and Master Bristles reserve; bitches, Donington Flirt, Richmond Quantum and Richmond Fearless.

There were eighty-seven smooth terriers entered which, when duplicated in the various classes, made a total of 223 entries. The wire-hairs numbered seventy-eight terriers and 181 entries, making in all a full complement of 165 terriers and 404 entries, the highest yet reached. These figures show the smooth and wire-haired varieties to be much more nearly equal in popularity in England than in the colonies.



CŒUR DE LION, RECENTLY IMPORTED BULL DOG.

The third annual show of foreign dogs, including specimens from nearly every country in the world, was held at the end of November at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster. Miss Manley, an expert on the breed, judged the chow chows, Miss Adela Gordon the griffon Bruxellois, Mr F. Gresham various foreign dogs, and Mr R. G. S. Mann the Dogues de Bordeaux. The chow dogs shown were in various colours, and included both rough and smooth-coated specimens. Public favour seems to lean towards the rough-coats, many fine dogs of which were benched. The champion of the show was Mr W. K. H. Temple's champion Chow VIII., a winner of thirty first prizes and six championships. The list of honours awarded Mr Temple's exhibit included the Chow Chow Club's twenty-guinea challenge cup for the best dog in the show, a first prize in the open classes, and two specials. His victory was a big achievement, especially when one considers Chow VIII. is seven years old and practically a veteran.

Under the head of foreign dogs came the breeds that have no special classification in the Kennel Club. In Arctic King Mrs H. C. Brooke showed one of the best Esquimaux dogs yet seen. Her exhibit was, as regarded size, half as large again as any in the Jackson team shown at Sydenham a short time since, and well deserved the first prize awarded it. In the classes for Dogues de Bordeaux, a type of dog closely resembling the old keeper's night dogs of thirty years since, Mrs H. C. Brooke was well to the fore with Sans Peur and La Goulue, both of which were awarded special prizes, in addition to a first and second. It was unfortunate that Matador du Midi (Mrs H. C. Brooke) showed such ferocity that it was deemed advisable to have him removed from the show. It was Matador du Midi that had to be led into the prize ring at the Crystal Palace recently by two men, and was then only judged with some difficulty. He has been twice matched against a bear. Mrs H. C. Brooke won a premier prize with the Hairy King—a Mexican hairless dog—a like prize also being awarded to Mrs Brooke for her Australian dingo, Myall.

D.H.

The Feathered World.

I have been expecting a Black Wyandotte for some little time, and now the manufacture of such a variety has been accomplished by Mr R. M. Francis, a Wyandotte fancier of North Melbourne. This gentleman has, for years, been an admirer and a breeder of Silver, Golden, and White Wyandottes, and being anxious for fame of some sort or other, set about establishing a black variety. I see it is surmised in Australian papers that the Black Hamburg and Black Orpington have been used in proceeding. I should say that the Black Plymouth Rock is a much more likely cross for Mr Francis to have tried. In that bird the yellow legs and red earlobes are both present to a certain degree, and it is a very easy thing to get Black Plymouth Rocks with rose-combs. So that if a Black Wyandotte is desired, I do not think there would be much difficulty in establishing such a bird.

But after all, where does the necessity come in? The silvers and the goldens at present seem leave plenty of room for improvement, so there is "plenty of room at the top" of the roll of exhibitors; and the man who can breed and show a really first-class Silver and Golden Wyandotte is doing more for the fancy than the man who by giving a fancy name to a cross-bred, brings himself into an ephemeral notoriety.

Then again, we do not want another black fowl. The Minorca is one of the very best fowls to keep for all round usefulness, the Orpingtons are said to be excellent in all respects, but, as I have never tried them, I cannot vouch, the Langshan I know well, and admire immensely, the Black Hamburg is an excellent layer, and a pretty bird to look at, and the Black Spanish has numbers of admirers who strongly advocate its claims to be the bird to keep. With all these well-tried varieties, there is no room for another black bird. Black Leghorns have never been a great success, owing to the difficulty in getting good yellow legs. The same difficulty must come in with any black-plumaged bird. Yellow legs do not agree with a black feathering, it is a contradiction of nature. Now and then a bird may be bred with very good yellow legs, but it is the exception that proves the rule. Poultry-breeders, therefore, will do well to stick to the known black breeds that have served them well for a long time past.

I am glad to see Mr Henderson advocates the use of good sound heavy oats as one of the best foods for laying hens, for this is the grain that I have always believed to be the best for constant feeding. Oats, 40lbs and over to the bushel, are excellent, but below that weight there is too much waste material. Wheat should be used too, a feed about twice a week, with oats as the other hard grain will give much better results than if the birds are fed on maize or barley. Maize I do not like at all for laying hens, for they put on so much internal fat when fed on this grain that it becomes impossible for them to produce eggs. Barley is good as a change now and then, but as a staple food give me good heavy oats.

The following account of apple-fed chickens from the *Stockkeeper*, may be of use to New Zealand orchardists, who may yet make a profit out of their apple trees in spite of the codlin moth, by turning young chickens into the orchards and letting them feed on the fallen fruit.—We do not remember ever having noticed apples having been so strongly advocated as a food for poultry as has recently been the case in a letter addressed to our transatlantic contemporary 'Farm Poultry' by a breeder in a large way who gives his experiences. This gentleman was given permission by a neighbour to run as many birds as he desired on an enclosed orchard situated some distance from his house, and in due course transferred 200 Plymouth Rock chickens, selected haphazard from his flock, the time being the end of August, when quantities of worm-eaten apples lay about. Very soon afterwards he discovered that the appetites of his birds had become less so far as their consumption of grain was concerned, and consequently he only fed them once a day; in fact, they were entirely left to their own devices during his three weeks' absence from home, owing to his having forgotten to give any directions for feeding them. On his return he visited the outlying orchard in fear and trembling, fully expecting to find his birds half starved, and bitterly reproaching himself for having forgotten to arrange for their being fed. It was a pleasant surprise, therefore, for him to see they were all flourishing, and from that time he never troubled to give them any extra food. Now comes the most remarkable, if not incredible, part of the story. The owner of the birds supplied by weight 100 chickens, all taken from his home yards, to a contractor in the neighbourhood, the 100 chickens scaling 350lb exactly, or an average of 3½lb apiece. The purchaser, being well satisfied with them, applied for another 100 birds at the end of the week, and these were supplied from the orchard flock, their total weight being 575lb, or 5¾lb each. This is certainly a prodigious difference in the weights—so prodigious, in fact, as to appear incredible, or at all events, very highly coloured. Yet the owner of the birds gives his name openly, and also supplies full information regarding the purchaser of the two lots of chickens, and there can be no doubt therefore that the last hundred birds were, at all events, considerably heavier than the first. Very likely it may be argued that the fowls subsisted largely upon worms, of which there were plenty in the orchard, and other grubs, but the fact remains that they consumed large quantities of wind-fall apples. At all events, as a leading American poultry journal publishes the letter, it might be interesting to poultry breeders on this side to experiment with apples, which are cheap enough in some counties to encourage them to try them as a food. We certainly do not expect that the results achieved by the American gentleman will be gained, but on the other hand it would be valuable to discover that apples form a nutritious diet for poultry.

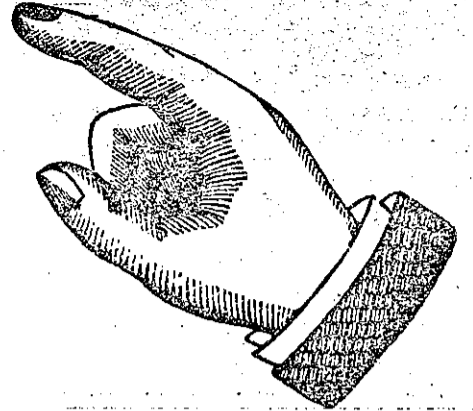
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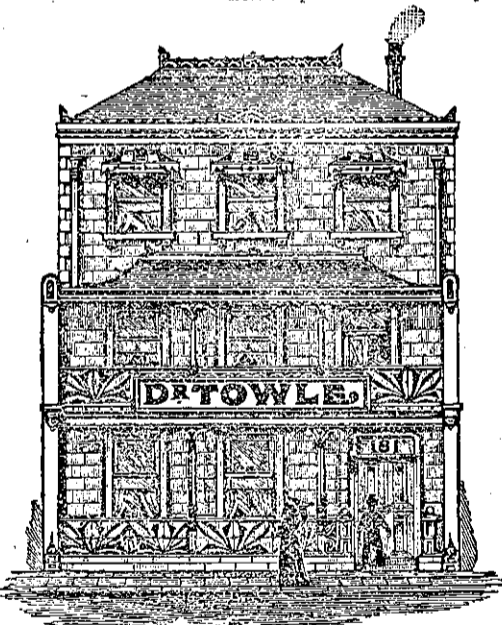
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