

FITZ-POODLE'S DOGGY EXPERIENCES

Looking Side-ways--2.

BY HIBERNIA.

XXIII.

Shortly after my hypnotic experiment with Mr. Daucey I met a Gordon setter man. In talking about the merits of the breed he stated that he expected to see the time when the sixty-two per centers would be far ahead of pointers or English setters in the field.

This was just the sort of a person that I wanted with which to continue my experiments in hypnotizing, so as the place where we were sitting had no other occupants, I made a few deft passes, fixed my eyes earnestly on his and he immediately went into a trance.

"Go," said I, "to New York City in the year 2000 on the 22d day of February. Visit the Madison Square Garden and tell me what you see."

"I am in New York City, but there is no Madison Square Garden now."

"Inquire if there is any dog show being held in the city."

"There has been none here for many years. All dog shows are held in Chicago."

"Then go to Chicago, and if there is a dog show in progress tell me what you see and enter into conversation with the exhibitors so that you can find out about things of interest in canine matters."

It would be tiresome to relate in full what my subject saw, so I will only take from my note book such extracts as may prove interesting to doggy people.

He said:

"In Chicago there is a building thirty stories high called the 'Fanciers' Exhibition Palace. It is occupied entirely by various fanciers' clubs for giving their shows. The different floors are used by the Canine Club, the Poultry Club, the Duck and Goose Club, the Pigeon Club, the Canary Club, the Ornamental Bird Club, the Rabbit Club, the Guinea Pig Club, the Fancy Mouse Club, the Bug and Worm Club and many other associations of fanciers. The top floor is occupied by the Canine Club and it ranks at the head of all. Travel is now done entirely by air-route, and the top story of the building is the most important.

Airships have taken the place of steamboats and railroads, horses are only kept as curiosities and the air-cycle is used instead of the bicycle. Chicago is the largest city on the continent, and as it is only a half-hour's journey from the furthest part of the United States, the bench shows are held here only.

The different local kennel clubs have gone out of existence and their places have been taken by various specialty clubs. The interest of every breed is now fostered by a club, and breeds like smooth and rough-coated St. Bernards have a club for each variety.

The governing body is called the Canine Club, and each specialty club is allowed one representative for each one hundred members.

Bench shows are now given almost every day of the year. Each specialty club gives a show semi-annually, and once a year all combine in a great all-variety exhibition.

This last was in progress when my hypnotic subject visited it. There were over twenty thousand entries. No catalogues were used, as the names, description, pedigree, prizes won, etc., of each dog was instantaneously printed and fastened to the back of the stall. The benches and partitions were all made of aluminum and a perforated pipe of the same metal was above all benches, through which a vaporized disinfectant was constantly forced, keeping the show as sweet as a pine woods. No attendants were visible, as the feeding, bedding, watering and cleaning were all done automatically

by machinery. At night the show was illuminated by a vast sun-like electric light in the centre of the hall.

The St. Bernards, both smooth and rough, now measure 45 to 50 inches at the shoulder and weigh from 400 to 500 pounds. Some of them have as many as ten dew claws on their hind legs. Otherwise they are the same as those of to-day.

Mastiffs have increased in bulk also, but are as short as the present bull dog in head.

The bull dogs on exhibition have heads so short that they resemble intaglios. They can not be suckled naturally, so from birth are fed by means of a rubber pipe. The front legs are so bowed as to resemble letter V's placed thus < >.

Pugs to be high class must have a tail that is naturally tied in a double bow knot.

Field spaniels are so long in body and low on the legs that it is impossible for them to walk. They are very popular, as they can be carried about by means of a shawl strap, and wherever the owner leaves one he is sure to find it again unless it is stolen during his absence. Their ears are so long that they are wrapped several times around the head and kept in position by means of a padlock, holes being made in the tips for this purpose. Cocker spaniels have disappeared, having merged into the kindred breed of field spaniels.

All natural game, except three kinds which will be mentioned later on, has become extinct, consequently the setters, pointers, etc., are very small classes. However, rubber fac-similes of quail, snipe, woodcock and other game birds and animals are now used as substitutes. Chemists have discovered the volatile essence that caused the peculiar odor of game which acted on the scenting organs of dogs, and the rubber substitutes are filled with this substance. By means of delicate clock work these artificial game birds and animals will follow all the wily maneuvers of the originals, but as the time has gone by when large bags are things to boast of, this sort of sport is held in low repute.

Foxhounds still look like their ancestors and are used for artificial fox hunting. Bicycles, however, have been substituted for horses, and they are so arranged that fences can be jumped with them. The sport is considered dangerous.

The standard height for beagles is now but five inches, and they are used only for hunting rats, one of the three kinds of game not extinct.

Terriers of all sorts are much diminished in size, a half pound being the largest weight admitted by the standard. They are used for killing mice, which is the most popular sport of the country.

Rough-coated collies were popular even in 1975, but the head by selective breeding became so long that it upset their equilibrium, and when they attempted to walk they would tip over on their nose, so this breed was given up.

There are several new breeds not known at the present time. One of the most popular is the roach terrier, a lilliputian descendent of the black and tan. Good specimens never weigh over five ounces. They are mostly kept in the kitchen where they wage eternal warfare on the pestiferous roach.

Then there is the winter dog, which evidently sprang from the Yorkshire terrier. This breed is only kept by ladies of wealth. It is round and long, and gold bands usually encircle the body at the shoulders and loins. A chain is attached to these bands and the dog by this means suspended in front of its fair owner. The hair, which is beautifully soft, is oftentimes ten feet in length, is wrapped around the body several times and the animal used as a muff.

Bull terriers by selective breeding have been produced without teeth, and their bloodless battles are much relished by the dudes of the period.

The after-dinner poodle is a tiny Russian poodle, fantastically shaved and corded. His principal use is at swell dinners to trot around on the top of the table after the ladies have left, carrying cigars to the male guests.

The sparrow setter appears to be a diminutive cross between the Gordon and Irish setter. The head and neck down to the shoulders are red, as are the legs and tail, but the rest of the body is black. The breed is a remarkably curious one and is used to point sparrows, a sport that has a large following.

ORIGIN OF AMERICAN DOGS.

A. Packard in American Naturalist.

The impression that the Domestic dog of the Old World has descended from the wild species distinct from the wolf may be well founded, but in America the evidence tends to prove that the Eskimo and other domestic varieties of dogs were domesticated by the aborigines and used by them long anterior to the discovery of the continent by the Europeans, the varieties in question originating from the grey wolf or prairie wolf. First as to the Eskimo dog. From the following extract from Frobisher it appears evident that the Eskimo had the present breed of domestic dogs long anterior to the year 1577. Frobisher's account of the Eskimo themselves is, so far as we know, the first extant, and is full and characteristic. After describing the natives he goes on to say: "They franke or keepe certaine dogs not much unlike wolves, which they yoke together, as we do oxen and horses, to a sled or traile; and so carry their necessities over the ice and snow from place to place; as the captive, whom we have, made perfect signes. And when those dogs are not apt for the same vse; or when with hunger they are constrained for lack of other vituals, they eate them so that they are as needful for them in respect of their hignesse as our oxen are for vs."

Confirmatory of the theory of the pre-Columbian origin of the Indian dog may be cited the following extract from Hakluyt's voyages regarding the Indian dogs seen on Cape Breton Island, p. 1593. "Here divers of our men went on and upon the very cape, where, at their arrival they found the spittes of Oke of the savages which had roasted meate a little before. And as they viewed the country they saw divers beastes and foules, as blacke foxes, deere, otters, great foules with red legges, pengwyns, and certain others. Thereupon uine or tenne of his fellows running right vp over the bushes with great agilitie and swiftness came towards vs with white staues in their hands like halfe pikes, and their dogs of color blacke not so bigge as a greyhounde followed them at the heeles; but wee retired unto our boate without any hurte received." (The voyage of the ship called the Marigold of M. Hilles of Redrige unto Cape Breton and beyond to the latitude of forty-four degrees and a half, 1693, written by Richard Fisher Master Hilles man of Redrige. Hakluyt, III, 239).

It is probable this variety, the bones of which have been found by Dr. J. Wyman, in the shell heaps of Casco Bay, Maine. "The presence of the bones of the dog might be accounted for on the score of its being a domesticated animal, but the fact that they were not only found mingled with those of the edible kinds, but, like them, were broken up, suggests the probability of their having been used as food. We have not seen it mentioned by any of the earlier writers that such was the case along the coast, though it appears to have been otherwise with regard to some of the interior tribes, as the Hurons. With them, game being scarce, 'venison was a luxury found only at feasts, and dog flesh was in high esteem.'"

It is possible that the Newfoundland dog was indigenous on that island, and also an offshoot of the gray wolf, allied to the Eskimo. In their "Newfoundland," Messrs. Hatton and Harvey say that there are few fine specimens of the world-renowned Newfoundland dog to be met with now in the island from which it derived its name. "The origin of this fine breed is lost in obscurity. It is doubtful whether the aborigines possessed the dog at all; and it is highly improbable that the Newfoundland dog is indigenous. Some happy crossing of breeds may have produced it here. The old settlers say that the ancient genuine breed consisted of a dog about twenty-six inches high, with black ticked body, gray muzzle and gray or white stockinged legs, with deer claws behind." "It is now generally admitted that there are two distinct types of the Newfoundland

dog, one considerably larger than the other, and reckoned as the true breed; the other being named the Labrador, or St. John's, or lesser Newfoundland. The latter is chiefly found in Labrador, and specimens are also to be met with in Newfoundland."

Regarding the dogs of the Mexican Indians, Nadaillac says in his Prehistoric America: "The European dog, our faithful companion, also appears to have been a stranger to them. His place was very inadequately filled by the coyote, or prairie wolf, which they kept in captivity and had succeeded in taming to a certain extent."

In a recent visit to Mexico, not only along the railroads, but in the course of a stage ride of about 500 miles through provincial Mexico, from Saltillo to San Miguel, we were struck by the resemblance of the dogs to the coyote; there can be little doubt that they are descendants of a race which sprang from the partly-tamed coyote of the ancient Mexican Indians. At one village, Montezuma, we saw a hairless or Carib dog, as we supposed it to be; similar dogs are sometimes seen in the United States.

Finally, that the domestic dog and gray as well as the prairie wolf will hybridize has been well established. Dr. Coues has observed hybrids between the coyote and domestic dog on the Upper Missouri. To this we may add our own observations made at Fort Claggett, on the Upper Missouri, in June, 1877. We then were much struck by the wolf-like appearance of the dogs about an encampment of Crow Indians, as well as the fact; they were of the size and color of the coyote, but less hairy and with a less bushy tail. They were much like those lately observed in Mexico, and I have never seen such dogs elsewhere. Their color was a whitish tawny, like that of the Eskimo dog.

Confirmatory of these observations is the following note by J. L. Wortman in the report of the Geological Survey of Indiana for 1884: "During extended travel in Western United States, my experience has been the same as that recorded by Dr. Coues. It is by no means uncommon to find mongrel dogs among many of the Western Indian tribes, notably among Umatillas, Bannocks, Soshones, Arapahoes, Crows, Sioux, which to one familiar with the color, physiognomy and habits of the coyote, have every appearance of blood relationship, if not, in many cases, this animal itself in a state of semi-domestication. The free inter-breeding of these animals, with a perfectly fertile product, has been so often repeated to me by thoroughly reliable authorities, and whose opportunities for observation were ample, that I feel perfectly willing to accept Dr. Coues' statement."

To these statements may be added those of Mr. Milton P. Peirce, published in Forest and Stream for June 25, 1885, as follows: "Hybrid wolves have always been very common along our western frontiers. I have seen several of them, sired both by dogs and wolves, and all I have seen resembled wolves rather than dogs." It is to be hoped that our mammalogists may collect and examine this subject, particularly the skulls and skins of numerous specimens, both of dogs and wolves, and the hybrids between them. Further observations are also needed as to the fertility of the hybrids.

EBERHART'S NEW KENNELS.

EDITOR FANCIERS' JOURNAL.

SIR: We have just completed, at a cost of nearly \$500, our new kennel building, situated on Walnut Hills, one of our most beautiful suburbs. The building is fifteen by twenty-five feet, two stories, heated and well ventilated—as comfortable and convenient as experience and all modern improvements could suggest. Stalls are three by six feet with self-closing gates. Three large yards with grass and shade trees in each, gives the dogs plenty of exercise. Kennel contains now twenty-two pugs, but room for fifty. Our dogs are all in fine condition, as they should be, in such elegant quarters. Nothing too good for our dogs. Should like to have some of our fellow breeders see how we are fixed. A cordial welcome to all. EBERHART PUG KENNELS.

CINCINNATI, O., Oct. 23.