

**The St. Bernard : its history, points, breeding, and rearing / by hugh Dalziel.**

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Dalziel, Hugh.

**Publication/Creation**

London : L. Upcott Gill, [between 1880 and 1889?]

**Persistent URL**

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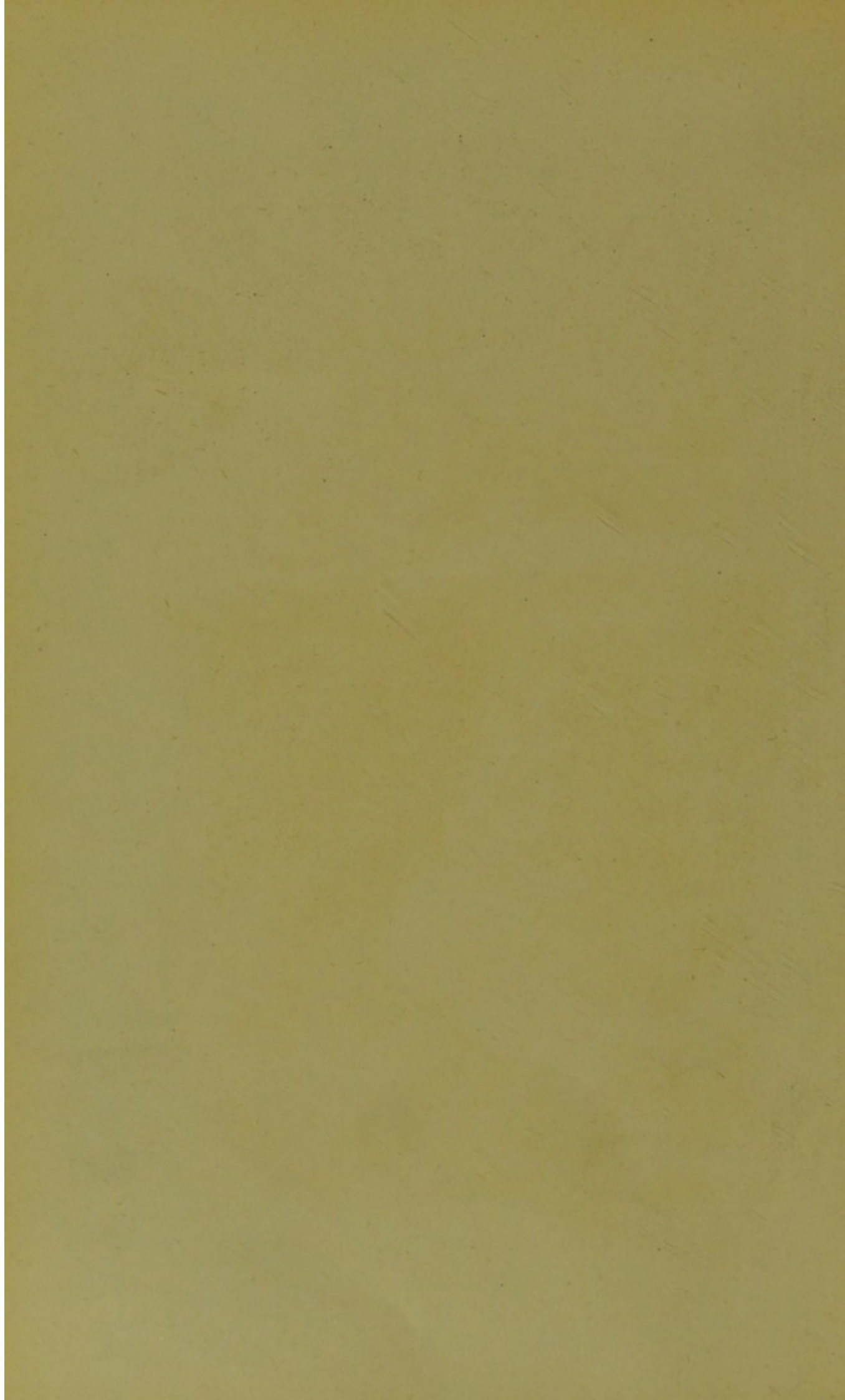
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ST. BERNARD.



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MONOGRAPHS ON BRITISH DOGS.

# THE ST. BERNARD;

ITS

HISTORY, POINTS, BREEDING, AND  
REARING.

By HUGH DALZIEL,

*Author of "British Dogs," "The Diseases of Dogs," "The Collie,"  
"The Greyhound," &c., &c.*

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ILLUSTRATED.

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LONDON:

L. UPCOTT GILL, 170, STRAND, W.C.



566

PRINTED BY A. BRADLEY, 170, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

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# THE ST. BERNARD.

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## ORIGIN AND HISTORY.

*Increasing Popularity of the Breed—Uncertainty of Origin—“Stonehenge” and “Idstone” on the Dogs of the Grand St. Bernard—Crossing—Barry and his Tragic Death—Importations of St. Bernards by Rev. J. C. Macdona and others—Errors and Fables—Mr. H. Schumacher on the “so-called St. Bernard Hospice Breed of Dogs”—The Bloodhound and the St. Bernard—Changes in Physical Features—“The Dents”—What is the Correct Type of St. Bernard?—Divergent Views—Pedigree—The Kennel Club Stud Book.*

SOME years have elapsed since I first wrote an article on the St. Bernard, and in the meantime the constantly-increasing popularity of the breed has naturally directed greater and more minute attention to its antecedents, resulting in considerable increase to our knowledge, and rendering it more accurate. On now re-reading the article referred to I find little of consequence to alter, but much to add. Now, as then, this magnificent and beautiful



animal, and truly gigantic dog, holds the very highest position in public favour among the ornamental and companionable breeds of our country, which is so rich in varieties both highly bred and handsome.

During the last seven or eight years the St. Bernard has not merely held the position of first favourite which he had attained, but has increased his lead, and is now more widely spread throughout the country, and vastly increased in numbers; and his English popularity has smitten our American and Colonial relatives, who exhibit in his worship the fervency and ardour characteristic of all fevers of fashion. Considering the sterling worth of the worshipped and coveted animal I trust that the somewhat overforced plant of admiration may be safely hardened off, and grow into a sturdy tree. The more complete and thorough our knowledge of this noble breed the more likely are we to keep on endeavouring to improve him, and the more certain is our regard for him to be permanent.

The great increase in the number of dog shows during late years, and the growth in number and value of the prizes now offered under the auspices of the St. Bernard Club and other admirers, have swelled the classes of these dogs to immense proportions; and these, again, by extending a knowledge of, and love for, the breed, reproduce themselves in new districts.

I retain in this work some portions of the article mentioned above, as representing what was true at the time it was written, and as a convenient and useful comparison of the position of the St. Bernard then and now, and in that way showing most clearly the rapid and great development



of the breed in England. I shall also have occasion to point out what I believe to be a general improvement of the breed, and give instances in which, by skill and care, some breeders have produced specimens quite phenomenal in size, yet retaining the true character, to securing the permanence of which all other considerations should give way.

I have been favoured by Mr. H. Schumacher—to whose thorough knowledge and patient and intelligent breeding through a long series of years we are indebted for the best of the progenitors of our present race—with a most interesting communication in which he has tersely and pleasantly given all the information concerning the origin and later breeding of the race which an enthusiastic lover of it could, with the best advantages, collect from reliable sources. This I give *in extenso*, and it will, I am confident, be read with keen pleasure and the admiration it deserves; for certainly nothing on the subject has before been published at once so reliable, complete, instructive, and interesting to lovers of this distinguished and historic dog.

Writing in 1879, I said that, “among the large-sized companion ‘dogs of the day,’ there can be no doubt of the St. Bernard occupying the position of chief favourite with the public. The large classes brought together at our principal shows of themselves furnish sufficient proof of this; and although I do not accept the decline in the entries of Mastiffs at the Crystal Palace Show, 1878, and again at the Alexandra Palace in 1879, as in itself proof of their fall in popular favour, any more than I take the inferior quality of the exhibits at the former as evidence of the decadence of the breed, yet it is significant that



there were nearly seventy entries of St. Bernards to forty of Mastiffs in the first case, and over seventy to fifty in the second; and at most leading shows now the former breed is invariably well represented, both in numbers and quality.

“The history of the St. Bernard in this country is but a short one, and there is no mystery or doubt about the present generation of them as far as their immediate progenitors are concerned; but many of the most illustrious sires we have had—dogs whose blood is destined to influence many future generations, from having begot the grandest of the breed yet seen—are without pedigree, or have merely a sire and dam attributed to them by name, which, for any information it gives, might as well be by Jack out of Jill. The great ambition seems to be expressed in the constantly repeated phrase, ‘Descended from the celebrated Barry.’ There is a degree of indefiniteness about this which should tempt some bold exhibitor to go a step further, and bring out one ‘descended from the celebrated dog of Bernard de Menthon, sire of the whole illustrious race who lived and begat whelps in the seventh decade of the tenth century.’

“Whether the existing dogs are indeed descended more or less directly from the dog of the noble-hearted monk whose name these hospitals and the breed of dogs still bear, and to whose large-heartedness and manly charity they constitute a noble monument, I am unable to say; but, as the portrait of the saint’s original dog, still preserved with that of himself at the hospital, is described as a Bloodhound, there are more unlikely things; for whatsoever their origin may be, it is an indisputable fact that many specimens acknowledged to be true St. Bernards do



still exhibit some of the most marked Bloodhound characteristics—the red haw, pendulous chops, and throatiness—although these points are not approved when strongly developed. That our present St. Bernards are composed of different and somewhat discordant elements I think they in themselves furnish sufficient evidence; for in large classes we meet with a variety of types that, by pedigree, have an equal claim to be called pure bred.

“It appears from the records in the various books on the subject, that some half-century ago the monks lost all their dogs, they, with several servants, having been swept away by an avalanche; and at that time, according to ‘Stonehenge,’ two dogs that the monks had previously given away were returned to them, and from these the existing breed is descended. ‘Idstone,’ who wrote from information gleaned on the spot when a guest of the monks, says (writing in 1872): ‘The breed of St. Bernards has undergone some changes within the last thirty or forty years. A pest or virulent distemper at one time carried off all the dogs of the St. Bernard but one, and that, I believe, was crossed with the Pyrenean Wolfhound.’ ‘Idstone’ doubtless had good ground for making this statement, and possibly to the introduction of the Wolfhound cross we may attribute the tendency to a lanky form and elongated muzzle seen in otherwise good specimens.

“What other crosses may have been at different times resorted to in the course of nine centuries it is now impossible to say, but it is not likely that strict in-and-in breeding either could or would be adhered to; and no doubt the monks would aim less at external form and beauty, and more at preserving the characteristics of strength, courage,



and endurance of cold, with that high intelligence and docility which, with the special aptitude for tracing snow-buried footways and discovering lost travellers, had been developed in their own dogs by keeping these animals to special work, and all of which qualities were essential to their canine assistants in carrying out their arduous and charitable tasks. 'Stonehenge' speaks of a Newfoundland cross having been tried and failed, and even speaks of Mr. Gresham's Monk as having too much of the Newfoundland type. I confess I can see nothing in Monk of the Newfoundland type, if that be the true type of Newfoundland—as I think it is—which 'Stonehenge' has given us in the engraving of Mr. Howard Mapplebeck's Leo in his latest work.

"In the Rev. J. Cumming Macdona's imported black and tan dog Meuthon we had something nearer to the Newfoundland type, but perhaps still closer to the Thibet Mastiff.

"To attempt, then, to trace the pedigrees of our present St. Bernards further than has been done in the Kennel Club Stud Book would be fruitless. We are directed in it to our earlier imported dogs, many of whom had no known pedigree, and to others vaguely referred to as descendants of Barry, a dog that made his name famous by the great number of lives he saved—forty-two, according to 'Idstone' and 'Stonehenge,' but which, however, under the enthusiastic pen of the Rev. Mr. Macdona becomes seventy-five.

"Be the number of lives saved by Barry more or less, it is impossible for a lover of dogs to refrain from offering a tribute of praise to the noble animal whose life was so



beneficently spent, or to withhold generous sympathy with his grandly tragic and yet most becoming death: he died in harness at the ripe old age of fifteen years, by the hand of a benighted traveller to whom he was carrying life and hope, and who, mistaking his would-be preserver for a wolf, killed him.

"It was not until dog shows had been some years established that a class was made for St. Bernards; this was first done at the show held March, 1863, in the Ashburnham Hall, Cremorne, first and second prizes being won by dogs with no written pedigree, but both bred by the monks of St. Bernard; these were the Rev. A. N. Bate's Monk and Mr. W. H. Stone's Monk, bred in this country from two dogs imported from St. Bernard Hospital when puppies. Shortly after this the Rev. J. Cumming Macdona, whose importation of Tell was the foundation of the grandest team of St. Bernards that has existed in this country, with the exception of the present Shefford Kennels, gave a considerable impetus to the St. Bernard fancy; and to that gentleman, above all others, I believe the St. Bernard owes its great popularity to-day, for his lavish expenditure of time, money, and skill in importing and breeding did more than anything else to establish the breed in public favour. In fact, it only wanted good specimens of these magnificent and colossal dogs to be shown to an appreciative British public to secure them a lasting home here; and this Mr. Macdona did, both in his imported specimens and those bred by himself, and I can assure those who read this, that it was a very grand sight to see six or eight of those noble animals scampering over the sands and breasting the waves round Hilbre Island like gigantic



sea-dogs. Amongst other importers of good dogs I must specially mention Mr. J. H. Murchison, who brought Thor into this country—a dog the sire of more present winners than any other. He has proved a great boon to breeders. Among his progeny I may mention the Rev. G. A. Sneyd's Hector, Mr. F. Gresham's Shah and Dagmar, Mr. M'Killop's Simplon, Mr. Armitage's Oscar, and Mr. Du Maurier's Chang—all of the very first rank. Thor, and also Miss Hales' Jura, and many other good ones brought over here, were bred by Mr. Schumacher, of Berne, whose name is most prominent in England as a Continental breeder."

The foregoing statements are not now up to date; entries at a show which were exceptionally large then are of common occurrence now, and at shows restricted to the breed, and held under the auspices of the St. Bernard Club, entries of nearly four hundred have been reached. I will here introduce, as its importance deserves, the instructive contribution of Mr. Schumacher. One or two notes in correction of errors may be interpolated here. It has been usual to write of St. Bernard de Meuthon, and I, in common with others, fell into the error. Mr. W. O. Hughes-Hughes, to whom I am indebted for valuable notes, points out that this must first have arisen through a misreading of the letter "u" for "n," the founder of the Hospice being named after his native village of Menthon. The name of Meuthon, as applied to that magnificent black-and-tan dog with which Mr. Macdona won so many prizes, is too well established to be changed, and the error in name may well remain to give emphasis to the greater error made in placing him in a foremost position among St. Bernards.



The universally-accepted and much-cherished account of the romantic death of Barry must, it appears, be parted with, although, it may be, reluctantly, as we give up so many fables made pleasant by long memories and associations, but which new light forbids us to hold longer.

Mr. Schumacher, who gained his information at the fountain-head, tells us that Barry was brought alive to Berne in 1815, and afterwards preserved there, thus putting an end to the romance that has so long done duty for plain record of facts.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SO-CALLED GREAT  
ST. BERNARD HOSPICE BREED OF DOGS.

*Compiled from Traditions of the Monks of the Hospice, and  
Recollections of Heinrich Schumacher.*

In kynological circles there prevails the erroneous idea that the so-called St. Bernard breed of dogs died out in 1815. This depends upon the way in which the matter is regarded, because a double explanation is possible. The first notion, that the breed of dogs does not exist in the same purity as before 1815, arose from a belief that in the great snowstorms which then prevailed the breed was destroyed. Although, indeed, in the Maison St. Bernard, in Martigny, and in the Monastery on Simplon, stocks were always kept up, from which the losses sustained in the mountains were made good, yet the monks of that time observed that the breed of dogs deteriorated through continual in-breeding, and there was a loss in strength, which incapacitated the dogs from developing the activity



and endurance needed in the difficult service of the mountains in winter time. In the beginning of 1830 the monks tried, therefore, to renew the old breed by crossing with strong, intelligent dogs, to recover the weakened good qualities—size, strength, and endurance. This crossing was done with long-haired Newfoundland females, which are recognised as the strongest and most suitable dogs. The crossing was also tried with German or Danish dogs.

The assumption that the breed, as it existed for 500 years, still exists, is in relation to the outward signs and to the usefulness and performances. Even to-day the Monastery of Great St. Bernard could not exist without the services of its dogs. In winter, the daily service of the dogs consists in tracing the passes. On one series, from the Cantine au Proz (on the Swiss side) to the Hospice and back, and on the other series, from the Hospice to St. Rémy and back (on the Italian side), the peculiar formation of the mountains causes mistakes, so that the most experienced monks and their servants have to be guided after every fresh fall of snow by the sharp senses, especially that of smell, of the dogs.

I give this explanation to show that the breed of St. Bernard dogs, with the necessary strength of body and intellectual qualities, still exists as it has existed for centuries, and that the old breed was improved by crossing with Newfoundland dogs, with systematically strict choice of the offspring, giving preference to those which most resembled the parents in hair, colour, and build. It happened that the result of the first crossing showed a disadvantage in the long hair proving totally unsuitable to the winter service, because it collected so much snow



that the dogs could not move about, and thus lost their lives. That is why the long-haired puppies were sold as unserviceable, or were presented to benefactors of, or donors to, the Monastery.

The celebrated dog Barry, now in the Natural History Museum at Berne, was taken alive to Berne in 1815 (I became acquainted with the facts in 1866, 1868, and 1869, in the Maison St. Bernard, Martigny), and was afterwards stuffed. Barry is a representative of the old breed before crossing with the Newfoundland dogs, and he must remain the purest type of the original St. Bernard breed of dogs. Whence come the number of so-called St. Bernard dogs which are to be found in the middle of Switzerland, and nearly always of the long-haired type? It is just this question that I am happy partly to answer. Among the most prominent benefactors and donors of the Hospice who received as presents dogs resulting from the long-haired crossing with Newfoundland dogs were Mr. Pourtales, Mettlen, Muri, near Berne; Mr. Rougement, Löwenberg, near Murten (Morat); Prince von Russland, Elfinau, near Berne; a breeder at Büssy, near Valengin, Kt. Neuenberg; Col. Risold, Berne; and Messrs. Cornaz, Pfanen, near Murten (Morat).

These dogs, presented from the St. Bernard Hospice, and their offspring, I have known mostly since 1838. All of these were red, with white marks, black face, black neck, and double wolf claws, and of a height not since attained; strongly built, particularly deep-chested, and with large and noble heads.

The dogs in Mettlen were long-haired, with fine, high-worn feather tail; and their offspring, I have observed



since the beginning of 1850, were always trained in the same way as the parents had been. From these were bred the dogs of Marchligen, Deisswyl, and Riggisberg. Most of the long-haired so-called St. Bernard dogs, or Bernardiner, are to be found in a degenerate state in Berne.

The dogs of Büssy, near Valengin, were short-haired, red, with white marks. Amongst them was the most beautiful and most powerful female I ever saw, which I knew from 1846 to 1849. I tried to get puppies from the owner, but, unfortunately, could not do so. Its offspring are to be found on the Nauenburgischen Estate, La Chaux de Fonds, &c.

Colonel Risold, of Berne, had only one dog (a male) from the end of 1830 to 1840—short-haired, the same colour and the same marks as the others, enormous head. It was so strong and courageous as to be the terror and master of all the other dogs in Berne. It has no known offspring.

The dogs from Elfinau were similar to those of Mettlen, with similar offspring, and similarly dispersed. The dogs of Messrs. Cornaz I did not recognise as being amongst the progenitors received from the Hospice. Their offspring I knew from 1845 to 1856. These were erect, long-haired, double-clawed, white, with reddish brown heads. Several specimens are stump-tailed. From these was derived the Utzenstorf breed, which exist still in Bernese Oberaargau, and are owned by the principal peasant proprietors, and still distinguished by their size and beauty. (From these Mr. G. Tschaggieny, of Thun, received his pups.) The dogs from Löwenberg I have known since 1838, for I passed a considerable



time in Murten; there have been several generations, always long-haired like those in Mettlen and Elfinau.

In 1854, my Barry I. was born in Löwenberg—short-haired, white, with red head. As he resembled neither in his hair nor in his colour the preceding generation, the owners entertained the erroneous opinion that he was a mongrel, and did not think he was a rare example, a freak of Nature; and they sold him as valueless to Mr. Klopfenstein, of Neuenegg, from whom I acquired the dog in 1855, principally because this was the only dog which possessed such a striking resemblance to the Barry of 1815 in the Natural History Museum, and because I knew his pedigree. From Barry I. I have bred magnificent pups, which were mostly sold in Russia, until Mr. Baron Judd, of Glockenthal, near Thun, bought Barry from me, in 1858, on condition that pups should be given to me as soon as possible. Mr. Baron Judd experienced difficulty in finding females of similar breed.

The Rev. Mr. Weyerman, of Interlachen, possessed a large, long-haired, very fine St. Bernard female, resulting from the crossing with a Hospice dog, which female, by Barry I., produced Sultan I. Sultan was the only offspring of Barry I. and Mr. Weyerman's female. Favorita I. and Toni I. are from Sultan and Diana I. By a mistake of the printer, an error in pedigree has been published, which I now correct. Mr. Baron Judd gave up to me Sultan I. in 1862. From him I obtained Diana I. of the St. Bernard stock from which originates my short-haired St. Bernard breed of dogs, and from which I have received up to date, with the help of some blood renewal, not only strong and pure, but also improved dogs, of which



my present breeding dogs, Apollo I., Bernice I. (now in America), Apollo II., Bernice II., and Juno, testify.

The deterioration of the St. Bernard breed of dogs is not only the result of deficiency of kynological skill, and of the difficulty in bringing up the very delicate puppies, but also from financial causes. The majority of owners have made the breeding of these noble animals a trade, and for this reason consider only their own profit. Amongst others, the breeders in and around Thun, Grindelwald, Zwei-lut-schinen, &c., possess the wish and the will, but not the power, to adhere to the principle of pure breeding and improvement. Moreover, foreign buyers desire long-haired animals; so that the breeders cross the original breeds with long-haired dogs, without making the right choice, only to meet the demand. I do not want to assert that the long-haired St. Bernards have depreciated or are less noble, but only that, through faulty or unsuitable crossings and the want of understanding the subject depreciation has been facilitated. The long-haired St. Bernards are, owing to their mass of hair, larger, more imposing, and handsomer (for the long hair can easily cover various shortcomings) than the short-haired; but the latter have the advantage of less perspiration and less covering for vermin, and are more hardy in various climates. Besides, I adhere to the principle that the race ought to be reared parallel with the parents, so that it may acquire the same reputation. For this reason I have asked the St. Bernard Club section of the Swiss Kynological Society to make the pure breeding of short-haired dogs one of its leading features.

In conclusion, I have to give you some explanations



about the best-known St. Bernards in England. From 1862 I always sold puppies from Sultan I. and Diana I., Leo I., Barry II., Favorita I., Toni I., for England without registration. Before 1867 I learned from an eyewitness (Mr. Robt. Piggott) that the dogs sold by me won the first prizes in the various dog shows, and therefore I decided to exhibit my dogs Sultan I., Favorita I., and Leo at the Paris Show in 1867, for which purpose the monks of the St. Bernard Hospice gave me a certificate testifying to the purity of my breed, which seems to have contributed to my dogs winning the first prize (the only first prize) during the exhibition. Doubt was publicly thrown by an English gentleman on the genuineness of my certificate, and he went specially to the St. Bernard Hospice to convince himself on the spot, and after five days he came back converted.

In the beginning of 1866 the Rev. J. Cumming Macdona bought his first three St. Bernard dogs, in Berne, from Mr. Schindler; amongst them was a really fine, long-haired specimen, red, with white marks, double wolf-claws. This dog was derived from the breeding of Messrs. Waltenwyl, of Deisswyl, of the Hospice dogs from Mettlen, near Muri, Berne. With this dog the Rev. J. C. Macdona obtained his first success in England, and many of the offspring of this dog still exist, and are considered the best in England.

In 1865 I sold the Rev. Mr. Dillon, in Berne, the dog Tell and the female Hero. The Rev. Mr. Macdona bought Tell, and it is sufficiently well known that for many years it was considered the best short-haired dog.

In 1871 I sold Mr. Murchison Thor, born in 1870, and Jura, born in 1871. These two specimens were, up to recent date, considered to be the best long-haired St.



Bernards, and their offspring are now very well known in England. I sold Mr. Murchison, in 1881 or 1882, the dog known as Sirius, a short-haired St. Bernard, which won several valuable prizes in the first Great St. Bernard Club Show, 1882; my Sultan III. won the first prize. Sultan III. is at present in England, also my Medor, known as a champion, under a new name, unknown to me, in England; also the female Bellona, belonging to Mr. Murchison.

These facts prove that Englishmen have drawn their St. Bernards from Switzerland, and mostly from well-known breeders, and have not, as the Germans erroneously assert, manufactured the St. Bernard breed. To the English belong the merit and honour of first recognising and preferring this breed, and of ennobling it, especially by new blood, by which they have contributed very much to the improvement of the whole race.

In 1867 I started the register for my St. Bernards, and this register must be considered as the oldest pedigree. In this register the births of the dogs sold are inscribed, and the certificates and explanations are now indispensable.

There were many attempts to cross between German or Danish dogs and Newfoundland dogs to produce a short-haired breed similar to the St. Bernards, under the erroneous impression that the original breed had been obtained in a similar manner. These crossings gave no brilliant result, because the marks on the head and body could not by that means be obtained: they produced only a kind of Mastiff, because the supposed progenitors—Danish dogs and Pyrenean dogs—had, presumably, for from 500 to 600 years, other



forms and qualities than the existing breed. It must remain for later investigation whether the race known as the St. Bernard breed is not one which is still to be found in the long-isolated Rhône valley and the neighbouring valleys, because it is known that the first peasants who took part in the wars of liberation, five or six centuries ago, also in the Burgundian wars, took with them into battle a species of dog of enormous dimensions, probably of the same origin as the present St. Bernard dog; at least, this assumption is worthy of further investigation.

HEINRICH SCHUMACHER.

HOLLIGEN, 24th August, 1886.

In addition to the foregoing general notes on the origin, breeding, and uses of the St. Bernard, Mr. Schumacher has furnished me with pedigrees, as exact as can be ascertained, of the strains from which we have drawn our best existing stock, but I think that these will come in to better purpose hereafter, when I deal with pedigrees specially.

In taking a broad view of the race of St. Bernard dogs, it is natural to speculate on its origin, and the reader who does this will doubtless have observed weak points in the arguments advanced by Mr. Schumacher.

Some years ago I put forward the proposition that possibly the Bloodhound properties displayed by some St. Bernards, such as the red haw, pendulous chops, and throatiness, might be evidence of a throwing back to progenitors as ancient as the dogs with which Bernard de Menthon established his mountain kennels and began his



good work: but I believe I then misapplied the law of atavism, for there is no proof, nor is it at all probable, that the Bloodhound, with his peculiar features, represents an original type of dog to which uncared-for domestic ones would breed back; and even granting the possibility of that, it is not probable that the portrait of the saint and his dog was other than imaginary.

What the original breed was it is impossible to say; but the probabilities are that the kennels represented what would nowadays be termed "a scratch pack."

In an article on the breed by Mr. Cumming Macdona, he adopts from Etienne Métroz the statement that the monks have bred the dog he is describing for a thousand years. The utter absurdity of this is apparent, and strongly contrasts with the common-sense statements of Mr. Schumacher. That dogs have been constantly kept at the Hospice, from the time St. Bernard de Menthon established the kennel for the performance of its humane work, there is no occasion to doubt. There is as little doubt that, during that time, the dogs must have undergone many changes in physical features, fitness for the work being the essential quality constantly looked for and insisted upon.

No dog has changed less than—probably so little as—the Greyhound, yet at the beginning of this century a strain existed for a short time known as "The Dents," that won many important stakes; yet they were so unlike our Greyhounds in the feature that gives them the title of "the long-tails," that they had short, curled tails. Three of these (bitches) were bought at high prices by three eminent coursers of that day—one by Major Topham, the owner



of the celebrated Snowball—and all were doubtless bred from, but, absorbed in the larger stream, the tendency to reproduce their like is lost, and the feature which distinguished them is seen no more.

So with the St. Bernards of the monks; the frequent introduction of different blood during the centuries, each bringing its peculiarity, would by selection have that peculiarity bred out, the practical only being sought to be retained. For tracing lost men or animals the hound would naturally suggest itself, having been for many centuries previously used for like work; and of these there were many varieties to choose from: while to fit them for the severe weather of such an elevated position, and the arduous work imposed upon them, experience would suggest intermixture with the hardy and powerful dogs used to hunt the wolf and defend the flock, these probably being the offspring of the more ancient dogs of war. It is equally possible that native dogs of the mountains were the stock on to which hounds of the chase were grafted, to increase intelligence and hunting powers. One thing is certain—no man ever yet found a breed ready made for entirely new work; and those who were capable—as the monks of St. Bernard have proved themselves to have been—of forming a breed adapted to special work, would not hesitate, when necessary, to use outside varieties that promised them assistance in their object. For the same reasons I consider Mr. Schumacher wrong when he speaks of the breed having existed for 500 years, and says that it still exists. True, the same qualities of strength, endurance, and intelligence, developed in a given direction, still exist in the dogs kept by the monks; but that there is more than a mere tincture



of the blood of the first dogs used in the work flowing in those of to-day is more than doubtful.

Mr. Schumacher tells us that about 1830 the monks, finding the vital and muscular powers of their dogs decreased by long-continued in-breeding, had recourse to outside blood—to Pyrenean, German Boarhound, Newfoundland, &c.—to renovate their worn-out stock. That was a natural and wise thing to do. But I cannot believe that 1830 was the first time the monks had to go outside their kennels for vitalising force. That must have happened many times in the centuries that this dog was kept for the humane purpose to which he is applied; and it is inconceivable that the snowstorms of the early part of this century were the first that decimated the kennels of the Hospice, making it imperative for the worthy owners to fill up the blanks from kennels kept for other purposes.

Mr. Schumacher is, it appears to me, entirely right when he claims that the monks, when compelled to resort to outside blood, carefully selected from the produce, for continuing their kennels, those that most nearly approached their existing stock in physical structure and mental aptitude or instincts to do their special work; and the latter qualities the pups would get largely from the physically weakened home stock, in which these special qualities had accumulated and strengthened through generations of transmission.

A great deal is written in this country about the correct type of St. Bernards, and it is painfully evident that many who write very glibly about it have never taken the trouble to define for themselves what they



mean by type, so that the word and its context are often the merest jargon.

The monks of St. Bernard have long since found that an active, yet powerful and intelligent, dog, built on lines and proportions recognised by them, is best adapted and easiest trained to, and can endure the hard work of, his vocation, and one of the characters they find needful is a short, thick coat. Are we, therefore, to breed only short-coated dogs? I answer, most certainly not, for the simple reason that our objects in breeding and those of the monks are widely different.

No one dreams of a champion St. Bernard in this country tracking a footway buried under the snow, or of being sent to discover a lost traveller on snowclad Plinlimmon. Our object is simply to breed a large, handsome, and intelligent dog as a companion, and public taste decides in favour of long-coated specimens.

It will be seen that, by Mr. Schumacher's showing, the rough-coated dogs descended from those discarded by the monks may be equally well bred; and as many of the females of these were mated with those kept by the monks, they are identical in blood with those kept at the Hospice.

It is quite\* competent, I conceive, for the English St. Bernard Club to form a standard of excellence for the breed considerably differing from that adopted by the monks, and breed up to it from a stock equally as pure, and, indeed, identical in origin; and I doubt much if any advantage can be gained now by importations from the Hospice or elsewhere, except in the occasional introduction here of a foreign-bred dog of exceptional merit.



The divergence in views between the English and the Swiss Clubs appears to me easily accounted for, and far from being antagonistic. I look upon these clubs as working on parallel lines, with no very great difference in the results sought to be attained, such differences being minor, and clearly-defined to start with. If we take two breeders of Brahma poultry, one taking the light, and the other the dark, variety, we will find both working on the same main lines, but with deviations because of the slightly different results sought for; and between those who think that in breeding St. Bernards we should take for our standard that which the monks select as best for their purpose, and those who believe we do best to disregard that standard in some of its *minutiæ*, and breed to our own ideal, there is just about the same general agreement and difference in details.

Pedigree is a question of the greatest importance to the breeder; and this is being more and more clearly recognised by dog-owners in general, though unfortunately the majority do not yet seem to grasp its full meaning. I shall deal with the matter again when I come to treat of breeding, and will now only say that a mere list of names does not make a pedigree in the breeder's sense.

The Kennel Club Stud Book would be an infinitely more valuable breeder's guide than it is were much-needed descriptive details of the dogs entered in it given. In the compilation of the first volume there was the excuse of inexperience, and also the impossibility, in many cases, of obtaining the required information; but even in the latest

volume there is a great want of details concerning many breeds. I am glad to recognise that the St. Bernard pedigrees show much improvement in the care bestowed on their compilation, and it would be well if similar treatment were in future extended to every variety.





## THE ST. BERNARD IN ENGLAND.

*The First Imported St. Bernard, and the Legend concerning him—Mr. Albert Smith's Dogs—Earlier Show-winners: Tell, Monastery, Leo, Abbess—Champion Bayard—Bruno—Baron Rothschild's Dogs—Mr. J. F. Smith on the Introduction and Establishment of the Breed—Successful and Typical Dogs—Mr. F. Gresham on Celebrities of the Day—The St. Bernard Club: its Conception; its Importance; Objects and Work of; Liberality of—Opinions on the Work of the Club.*

IN this breed we are confined within narrow limits in the matter of pedigree; but through the kindness of Mr. Schumacher I am enabled to give a much greater extension to that of many of our living dogs—who trace back to Thor, Jura, Monarque, and others—than has hitherto been published in this country.

I regret I have failed in my efforts to trace the lineage of many dogs that are well known as prominent among the progenitors of our present stock. I do not know to what extent, if any, we are indebted to the blood of St. Bernards brought to this country prior to the dog-show era, but the blood of the few that were early imported was probably soon absorbed, and lost in other varieties.



The first authenticated case of an imported St. Bernard I have heard of was the one known now as the Leasowe Castle dog, a painting of which is, I believe, in the possession of the Cust family, and a photograph of it will be familiar to many readers. The dog is in style much more like an open-coated English Mastiff than the St. Bernards of the present. He was brought to Leasowe Castle from the Hospice in May, 1815, and was then one year old, and was described as being 3lin. high at shoulder and 6ft. 4in. in length. These measurements compare favourably with the dogs of to-day. The following is the legend published with the photograph referred to, and in regard to it I must point out that confidence in the measurements given is greatly shaken, if not completely destroyed, by the last sentence, for it is evidently a monstrous exaggeration to say a dog of any breed could carry a burden of 1cwt. for eighteen miles. The St. Bernard dog has been so surrounded with a halo of romance by his admirers that the most extravagant statements are seriously made about him by men usually sober-minded, and these have been too often adopted without serious question, and become part of a common creed:—

“The dog was about a year old when he was received at Leasowe Castle in May, 1815. His length was 6ft. 4in., and height in middle of back 2ft. 7in., and he is now larger and is still growing. He saved a lady from drowning since he has been in England. Dogs of this breed are kept at the Convent of St. Bernard for the purpose of discovering and assisting those travellers who, in crossing the mountain, may be overwhelmed, and buried in the drifted snow. They are sent forth in pairs, and



when they discover a sufferer one of them returns to the Convent for further assistance, whilst the other remains, doing his utmost to extricate the traveller. These dogs are also used as animals of burthen, and will carry a hundredweight of provisions from 'Banches' to the Hospice, which is eighteen miles distance."

Mr. Albert Smith, well known as a public lecturer, possessed some well-bred dogs purchased at the Hospice, and these are the next in historical sequence of our English St. Bernards. These animals were doubtless bred from, but I have been unable to trace any of our present dogs back to them.

Of the heroes of our earlier shows, and whose blood flows in the veins of many winners now, I will mention a few that it is so much to be regretted are without pedigrees that can be traced. Of these, the famous Tell, which Mr. Macdona bought from Mr. Schindler, stands foremost. He is given in the Stud Book as by Hero out of Diane. Now, the repetition of names is very confusing, and changes of names still more so. I can only by some such supposition account for the apparent discrepancies between Mr. Schumacher's statements and the record in the Stud Book. Tell is apparently the dog Mr. Schumacher refers to as bred by Mr. Schindler, but the description does not correspond, for Tell was a dark brindle, not red and white. Then, again, I think the Tell referred to by name by Mr. Schumacher must be the dog Mr. Macdona named Monarque. But here, again, there is a discrepancy to reconcile, for "Stonehenge," who doubtless obtained his facts from Mr. Macdona, says Monarque was own brother to Mr. Schumacher's Barry; but according to his breeder that



is not so. But Monarque, if my supposition is right, would be own brother to Diane II., the dam of Thor.

Monastery, one of the ancestors of Plinlimmon, was a noble specimen of the smooth-coated variety, and his grandsire was Mr. Stone's Barry, a winner at our earliest shows, and a dog to whom many of our best trace back.

Sir Charles Isham's Leo, another dog that has left his mark on many good kennels, is entered in the Stud Book without pedigree, but as bred by Monsieur Eggar, Switzerland. Leo was a rough-coated, white dog, with tan about the head. Although I must have seen Leo, I cannot recall his figure to memory; but he must have possessed sterling qualities to have induced such an astute judge and successful breeder as Mr. F. Gresham to resort to him as a stud dog.

Mr. Gresham's smooth-coated Abbess is another of the short pedigree ones, the descendants of whom may be numbered now in scores, probably hundreds, and many of them noted prize-winners.

It is unnecessary to travel further through the list of those we must now call ancient worthies; I have left many unmentioned, but Mr. Smith, in a contribution which follows, supplies the deficiency, and the Tables hereafter given will fairly cover the ground, and show at a glance the sources of the best dogs of the day, as far as they can be traced, and certainly further than has hitherto been published, at least in this country.

Owners of good St. Bernards will, in the large majority of cases, I believe, find the pedigrees of their dogs branch-



ing out of one or other of those mentioned in the pedigree Tables given.

In regard to the pedigree of the champion Bayard, there seems to be the clearest of evidence that his maternal G.G.G.G. grandsire, Pluto, was an English Mastiff, and won a prize at Birmingham Show, 1865, as such. This was the very year that Mr. Macdona brought out his grand dog Tell, whose fame was, and is, world-wide and well-deserved; but it certainly is a singular incident in dog-showing that Mr. Macdona should, twenty years later, be winning champion prizes with the descendant of an English Mastiff. That such was the case is as certain as anything connected with the history of dogs can be, for Mr. Muckley, who owned and bred several generations of Bayard's maternal forbears, was too experienced, intelligent, and careful a breeder to make a mistake on such a point. Whatever may be thought of the bar sinister on Bayard's escutcheon, he is a magnificent specimen of the St. Bernard, and not a whit the worse for having the one hundred and twenty-eighth part of good English Mastiff blood in him.

It has been stated by Mr. Max Siber, and repeated by Mr. J. Cumming Macdona, that the first St. Bernard was imported from Switzerland into this country in the thirteenth century. I can find not a shadow of proof that any dog we should now call a St. Bernard was imported into England at so early a date; there is not even proof that the breed, as we recognise it, existed; but even if such a fact could be proved, interesting as it would be to dog-lovers in general, it would have no special value to living St. Bernard men, or those who may succeed them, for



had such a dog been the purest ever bred, and the most prepotent of his race, his influence must have been soon absorbed and obliterated in the ocean of canine blood that has flowed in England since then, just as the influence of a pot of ink would be speedily lost if poured into the Thames.

There is an authenticated source from which many of our St. Bernards have sprung, although I have been unable to trace pedigrees with accuracy and precision of detail. Mr. W. J. Garnett's Bruno (2419), from whom champion Bayard is descended, is stated in the Stud Book to have been bred by Her Majesty's Consul at Geneva, and whelped in 1867, and his pedigree is thus rather confusingly stated: "By a pure St. Bernard at the Hospice, out of a pure bitch at the Simplon." I am, however, informed that the sire of Bruno was Lion, and the dam Sultana, and of a strain kept by Baron Rothschild, respecting which the following will be read with interest. The letter is one in reply to an inquiry made by Mr. Garnett, Quernmore Park, Lancaster, and the following is the part of it material to our purpose:

British Consulate, Geneva,

*April 15th, 1884.*

The manager of the Rothschild property remembers the dog Sultana, but cannot give her pedigree, and there is no pedigree existing of any of the dogs of the Rothschild strain. He quite remembers, about the time you mention, two of the monks of St. Bernard came to the Campagna, and wanted the Baron to lend two of his best dogs, male and female, to take with them to the Convent to breed from, as they were of better breed than any dogs they had; and, having had pups from the female, they would faithfully return the parents. The Baron would not trust them, and positively refused.



Sir Robert Peel had a lot of dogs from Rothschild's kennels, and the pups have been sold into England many times, and I know their offspring have been celebrated, and won prizes, and I think one of them went into the possession of Mr. Macdona, and is the origin of his celebrated kennel.

(Signed) JOHN AULDYS,  
*British Consul.*

Mr. Auldys was wrong in his supposition respecting the origin of Mr. Macdona's kennel, for although he may have strengthened it by drafts from the Rothschild strain, the dogs of Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Schindler, and purchases at the Hospice, were its main source.

In continuation of that branch of the subject dealing with the earlier and most noted specimens of the breed, I now give the following contribution from Mr. J. F. Smith, well known as a judge and breeder, and who has studied St. Bernards closely throughout the whole history of our dog shows.

When the first St. Bernard was imported into England is unknown. Mr. Max Siber, Secretary of the Swiss Kynological Society, states that it was in the thirteenth century when the first Swiss dog was imported into England. Little, however, is known by fanciers now living of the breed until its introduction by Mr. Albert Smith, the well-known popular writer and lecturer, who, I believe, imported a pair of these dogs, which were of a fawn or very light orange colour, and devoid of markings. It is said these dogs were from the Hospice of the Great St. Bernard.

But the great honour of introducing and thoroughly establishing the breed in this country is mainly due to



the exertions of Mr. J. Cumming Macdona, who has made many successful visits to the Hospice of St. Bernard and to various parts of Switzerland. His first importations were the famous Tell (2458) and Hospice (2429), both of whom we may consider as being, in no small degree, the foundation of the breed now existing here. Tell created such a sensation when first exhibited, which was at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in 1865, that it was not long before other gentlemen took up the breed, one of the foremost being Mr. J. H. Murchison, who imported the well-known Thor (2462), a dog that we consider one of the first and principal pillars of the St. Bernard Club Stud Book; and it is a remarkable fact that such a success has this renowned ancestor become, that breeders of the present day always insist on having Thor blood.

Amongst other well-known importations, we must not forget Mr. Macdona's Alp (2405), Sir Charles Isham's Leo (2437), Mr. Garnett's Bruno (2419) (probably one of the best-headed St. Bernards we have ever seen), Mr. Hooper's Bernardine, Mr. Macdona's Jura (2434), Gessler (2422), Hedwig (2423) and Monarque (2446), Mr. Stone's Barry (2411), Mr. S. W. Smith's Barry (6414) and Bonnivard (11,738). The foregoing may lay claim to being the ancestors of the splendid race of dogs now to be found in this country, which may fairly be classed as the aristocrats of the canine world. Taking the St. Bernard all in all, he has no equal: his colossal size, combined with the most perfect symmetry; his colour and markings, so rich that no painter has been able, as yet, to portray them faithfully; together with the grandeur of his head



(to which no words of mine can do justice) and his noble disposition, entitle him to all the honour we can give him.

Following the footsteps of Mr. J. C. Macdona and Mr. Murchison, we find Mr. Fred. Gresham taking up the breed with wonderful success; and in a few years he established such a kennel of St. Bernards as had never before been seen. In 1867 he bred Bernie (2416), who was dam of the celebrated champion Abbess (2403), one of the grandest smooth-coated bitches that ever lived, the sire of Abbess being Sir Charles Isham's Leo (2437). In 1873, from Abbess, by Thor, he had the distinguished litter which contained the rough-coated champion Hector (4476), the smooth-coated champion The Shah (4481), and the beautiful rough-coated bitch Dagmar (5350). In addition to the above, I must mention champion Monk (4479) and Tarquin (5346), by Leo (2437) out of Bernie (2416); also Othman (6442), Augusta (5349), Lady Superior (6433), and Mab (6434)—all by Moltke (4478) out of Abbess (2403).

Amongst other noted dogs of the past are Mr. Armitage's grand-headed Oscar (4480), Mr. Yuile's Simplon (4482), Mr. J. C. Macdona's Alp (2405), H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' Hope (2428), Mr. Cobham's Avalanche (4473), Mr. Thornton's Druid (6443), Messrs. Layland's Monastery (2436), Mr. Murchison's Mentor (2444), and Mr. Du Maurier's Chang; and amongst the finest bitches, Miss Aglionby's Jura (2433), Dr. Russell's Muren (8472), Mr. Gresham's Gruyere (7469), and Rev. A. Carter's Luna II. (11,774).

There are many other breeders, not mentioned for want of space, who have done much towards raising the St.



Bernard to its present high standard; and at the present time, breeders are to be found in every part of the country vieing with each other to surpass all that has hitherto been done.

Amongst the most successful and typical we now have in rough-coated dogs, are Mr. J. F. Smith's champions Save (10,626), Bayard (8447) and Tempest, Mr. S. W. Smith's champions Plinlimmon (15,050) and Valentine (14,665) and Sir Charles (19,468), Mr. H. B. Wood's champion Nero III., Mr. T. Thorburn's Gaylord (14,282), Mr. J. Royle's Duke of Marlborough (19,274), Mr. W. G. Marshall's Pilgrim (14,067), Mr. Ward's Landgrave (16,479), Dr. Roberts' Pouf (18,528), Captain Thomas' Faust (10,613), Mr. Winter's Macgregor (14,288) and Sailor (14,081), Mr. H. C. Joplin's champion Cadwallader, Mr. J. Hall's Sir Henry (19,282), Mr. H. Megson's champion Boniface (11,737), Mr. C. Colam's Valour (14,102) and Musgrave (13,791), Mr. H. R. Chapman's Duke of Wellington (17,039), Mr. Stuckey's Hector II.; and last, though not least, the grand youngsters Prince Battenberg (20,837), Hesper (20,819), and Young Wallace, belonging respectively to Messrs. G. King-Patten, Samuel Smith, and W. Jones.

The 100 Guinea Challenge Cup for dogs has been won by Mr. J. F. Smith's Leonard (since dead) twice, Bayard once, Plinlimmon three times, and Save once.

In bitches, the following are well worthy of notice: Mr. L. C. R. Norris-Elye's champion La Mascotte (12,892), Crevasse II. (12,882), Plevna (20,901) and Bellegarde (20,854), Messrs. Inman's Lady Eva (17,040), Mr. J. F. Smith's Gloriana (17,762) and Princess Battenberg, Mr.



Egerton Clarke's Carmelite (20,858), Mr. Charles' champion Lady Norma (11,779), Mr. H. C. Joplin's champion Elfrida (12,885), Dr. Shepherd's champion Thetis (14,092), Mr. G. N. Hallewell's Queen Jura (17,677), Mr. King's Melita (18,003), Mr. Tatham's Bernardine (15,607), the Rev. A. Carter's Diane and champion Madam, and Mr. J. Hall's wonderful brood bitch Bessie II. (13,793).

The Challenge Cup for bitches has been won by Mr. Joplin's Elfrida, and by Mr. Norris-Elye's Plevna (who is now the holder of it).

The best dogs in the smooth variety are: Mr. J. H. Murchison's Sirius (14,300) and Dignity (14,295), Mr. Wells' champion Beauchief (11,793), Mr. J. C. Macdona's Victor Emmanuel (17,559), Mr. L. Oppenheim's Benedict (18,007), and Mr. C. W. Cunningham's Lord Wolseley (10,620); whilst in bitches, we have Mr. L. Oppenheim's Lady Superior (10,008), Mr. Colman's St. Bernardine (16,975), Mr. J. F. Smith's Chancel, Miss Southern's Windermere Juno, Mr. W. B. Megone's Bon Bon (11,799), Mr. J. C. Colam's Moira (12,899), and the more recently imported Guide.

The following typical and well-known dogs and bitches have gone over to the great majority during the last year or two: Alpenstock III. (12,848), The Hermit (11,757), Leonard (12,862), Thorwald (12,824), Glengarry, champion Dunstan (10,662), Thisbe (15,008), champion Cloister (11,770), Ida (9395), and Irene (7489).

A number of very good St. Bernards have lately been exported to America, amongst which are: Rector (since dead), Duke of Leeds, Bonivard, Leila, Rhona, Don II., Her Majesty, and Merchant Prince.









ST. BERNARD.

Rev. Arthur Carter's THISBE (K.C.S.B., 15,008).

Sire, Mr. J. F. Smith's Alpenstock III. (K.C.S.B., 12,848);

Dam, Rev. A. Carter's Diane (K.C.S.B., 11,774).



The numbers quoted above are those marking the dogs in the Kennel Club Stud Book, and by reference to that work readers will find that a very large proportion of the living celebrities trace back to the limited few early imported dogs, and to the kennels mentioned in Mr. Schumacher's treatise.

I have now the pleasure to submit the remarks of another gentleman whose opinions are of weight, for as a successful breeder and judge of St. Bernards he stands second to none. Referring to a number of existing celebrated animals, Mr. Frederick Gresham writes:

By reference to the pedigree of these dogs [celebrities of the day], it will be seen that they all trace back to one or more of the six importations, Tell Hospice, Thor, Leo, Bruno, and Bernardine—Bayard being descended from Bruno, through Bosco; Leonard from Thor, through Harold; Cadwallader from Leo and Bernardine, through Hercules; Beauchief from Leo and Thor, through Hector and Irene; Elfrida from Leo, Thor, and Bernardine, through Hector, Abbess, and Hercules; Crevasse. II. from Leo and Bernardine on both sides, through Cadwallader, The Shah, and Berne II.; and La Mascotte from Thor, Leo, and Bernardine, through Rollo, Monk, and Luna II. Besides the foregoing there are many other high-class dogs only second to them, prominent amongst which are: Mr. J. F. Smith's Save, a beautiful son of Othman, who traces back to Leo and Tell, through Abbess and Moltke; and the Rev. A. Carter's Plinlimmon, perhaps the most extraordinary dog of the day, who, at Warwick, when only ten months old, won a cup for the best St. Bernard in the show, defeating many large winners.



This dog commands more points than any St. Bernard living; he goes back to Thor, Leo, and Bruno, through Pilgrim and Bessie II. Mr. J. H. Murchison's smooth-coated Dignity and Sirius, two importations from Mr. Schumacher, the celebrated breeder at Berne, are also fine specimens. The most successful alliance of the now celebrated Bayard has been with the Thor blood, as Bessie II., the dam of Plinlimmon, is sired by him, and Pilgrim by Hector, sired by Thor. Cadwallader also crosses well with this strain, his best progeny being Crevasse II. and Precipice (the latter, unfortunately, dead), out of Silber, by The Shah, by Thor. He also produced, from the Bruno and Bernardine strains, Oscar and Carmen, two young dogs that won at Dublin, and are of exceptional merit. Leonard has so far matched best with Mabel II., by Barry out of Ethel, by Hector out of Abbess; Eviot, his offspring, being a grand young smooth with beautiful markings.

The foregoing genealogies are instructive, inasmuch as they point to the fact that from the time Thor was imported into England St. Bernards have been steadily improving, but decidedly his best success was with Abbess, which goes to prove that dogs descended from the Leo and Thor strains should be encouraged by breeders. At the same time the infusion of the blood of the descendants of Tell and Bruno will always be advisable, so that the quality of the latter may combine with the substance of the former.

The large number of dogs celebrated among their kind, and that under more severe competition than was ever before known, testifies to the great rise of the St. Bernard



in popular favour; it has, in fact, risen with, and been floated on, the crest of an immense tidal wave, which, as yet, has shown constantly increased volume and no signs of receding. The list of these noted dogs might be greatly added to, and is constantly increasing, which fact is very largely due to the St. Bernard Club and the energy and intelligent individual activity of many of its members; it is, therefore, well that we should briefly glance here at its constitution and work.

The conception of the Club was in the mind of the Rev. Arthur Carter in 1881, and on sounding other admirers of the breed attending the show at Alexandra Palace in December of that severe winter, in defiance of the chilling atmosphere of the Muswell Hill "shiver-your-bones," he found most of them ripe and ready for the accomplishment of the scheme. A few circular letters sent out by way of striking while the iron was hot resulted in a meeting on February 2, 1882, at which, in the language of the scribes, the Club was established on a firm basis, officers elected, and the practical work begun.

There is a period in the early history of the Club I gladly pass over; it was a discouraging time, but the Club had too much of what our American friends call "real grit" in it to fail in purpose because of a disagreeable difficulty. As it is better for the body, as a whole, that a rotten, leprous member be cut off, so the disagreeable difficulty was obviated, and the Club has ever since gone on—not, as the popular phrase has it, "like a house on fire," but like a mansion intended for a common good, when designed by wise architects and built by honest masons with a liking for the work, and



who take for their motto "*laborare est orare*," and succeed accordingly.

The St. Bernard Club, although not the first established of the special dog clubs which now abound, is certainly second to none in influence and importance, and in independence it stands alone, being the only body of the kind that holds its shows under rules of its own making, and which does not submit its supporters to the indignity of having to pay blackmail to an alien club.

It would be out of place here to give the rules of the Club *in extenso*, but I will state the principal objects in view and the steps taken to attain them. The general purpose is to encourage the breeding of St. Bernard dogs of a certain recognised type, and to stimulate popular interest in these only, to the exclusion of others of a different and objectionable character. To do this the Club, by its second rule, undertakes "to define precisely and publish a description of the true type; to urge the adoption of such type on breeders, exhibitors, judges, dog-show committees, and others, as the only recognised and unvarying standard by which St. Bernards should be judged, and which may in future be uniformly accepted as the standard of excellence in breeding and in awarding prizes to St. Bernards."

The Club has so far, I regret to say, failed in this very important part of its programme, and has not yet defined precisely and published a description of the true type. I have already hinted at causes of delay which must be held to excuse this seeming neglect, and the excuse may be the more readily granted as other means of promoting the welfare of the breed have not been



neglected, and the Club is at the present time engaged in redeeming past pledges and fulfilling the deferred duty.

Another important work undertaken is the compilation of a Stud Book, and that tedious and laborious work, which requires a vast amount of painstaking, is also in progress under the competent supervision of the Rev. Arthur Carter, to whom we are indebted for the introduction of the exceedingly clear catalogues of its shows issued by the Club, in which the pedigree of each dog is displayed in tabular form. The Club has been very liberal in its encouragement of the breed by presenting prizes to show committees for competition, and it has instituted two handsome Challenge Cups, each of the value of one hundred guineas, the competition for which is very keen, the winning of one of them being a prime object with exhibitors.

A member of the committee of the St. Bernard Club thus writes to me: "The Club is to be congratulated on the good work it has done. It has so far had its effect that, by the appointment of judges selected by the Club to carry out its views, a fixity of type has been established, and breeders are not working in the dark as hitherto."

I cannot fully endorse this sentiment. The Club cannot claim so much until it has, in its own language, precisely defined and published a description of the true type; and while I admit that, in selecting judges the Club knew or believed to be agreed on main lines, yet I hold such a selection of judges by a Club is not free from grave objections—especially as these gentlemen do not judge by a published standard or give the public the reasons guiding



them in their decisions. With this standard or precise description of the true type we shall come into more intimate connection in dealing with that recently submitted for the approval of the Club, together with, and in the light of, other expressed opinions, and we may now proceed to the consideration of the physical structure of the dog.





## POINTS, MEASUREMENTS, PEDIGREES, &c.

*What is a Standard?—Reason for Framing Standards—Standard Drawn up by Rev. A. Carter and Mr. F. Gresham—Mr. Norris-Elye's Views on the Points of the St. Bernard—Mr. J. F. Smith's Standard—Standards adopted by the Swiss Kynological Society and by the International Congress at Zurich—"Stonehenge's" Standard—Comparison of Opinions as to Points—The Dew-claw: Opinions pro and con by Etienne Métroz, Mr. Schumacher, "Idstone," Rev. A. Carter, Dr. Darwin, Chauveau, Mr. A. Nicols, &c.—Weights and Measurements of Well-known St. Bernards—Pedigrees, Measurements, &c., of Present-day Celebrities.*

THE framing of standards of excellence by which dogs of different breeds should be judged, is a work that has been undertaken by a great number of people of late years; but I confess to feeling considerable disappointment and dissatisfaction with the results in most cases, and in saying so I do not exempt the outcome of my own efforts. It is, of course, open to any man to set up a standard for himself, and get the world to agree to it if he can; and it is equally open to a combination of men to follow the same course: and this is what nearly all our special dog clubs have



done. But even the united wisdom of a club does not always produce a whole that will bear analysis; and we often find that, when critical minds ask the troublesome "reason why" respecting one part after another of the structure, the standard has no better foundation than "we say so." This is not altogether to be avoided: the formulation of standards is at least an attempt to give a definite character to a breed so that prize distributions shall not be a mere lottery, but awards be made in conformity with canons as to symmetry and the presence of special characteristics previously defined and made public.

Dog shows are the reasons for standards being framed and publicly acknowledged; and although I remain of opinion that their practical application is imperfect without judging by points, the clear value being put on each, yet the very fact that the judge knows he is expected to judge dogs by a well-understood description of them has its influence in keeping decisions reasonably consistent with each other. As the St. Bernard Club has taken plenty of time—nearly seven years—in meditating what it shall tell the world a St. Bernard dog should be, I hope that the result, when we get it, of the long and deep consideration may be worthy of the time and pains bestowed on it.

At the time of writing this there are three proposed standards before the St. Bernard Club, which I here give, no decision as to exact description being probable for some considerable time. In afterwards commenting on the points *seriatim* I shall quote other writers and acknowledged authorities on the subject.



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STANDARD OF POINTS for *St. Bernards*, Drawn up by the  
Rev. Arthur Carter and Mr. Frederick Gresham, for  
the Consideration of the Committee of the *St. Bernard*  
Club, September, 1886.

#### DESCRIPTION.

*Head*.—Large and massive, circumference of skull being rather more than double the length of the head from nose to occiput. Face short, full below eye, and square at muzzle; great depth from eye to lower jaw. Lips deep, but not too pendulous. From nose to stop perfectly straight. Stop somewhat abrupt and well defined. Skull broad, slightly rounded at the top, with somewhat prominent brow.

*Ears*.—Of medium size, lying close to cheek, and not heavily feathered.

*Eyes*.—Rather small and deep set, dark in colour, the lower eyelid drooping, so as to show the haw to a slight extent.

*Nose*.—Large and black, and well developed nostrils.

*Teeth*.—Level.

*Expression* should betoken benevolence, intelligence, and nobility of character.

*Neck*.—Lengthy, muscular, and slightly arched, with dewlap fairly developed.

*Shoulders*.—Broad and sloping.

*Chest*.—Wide and moderately deep. The lower part should not project below the elbows.

*Body*.—Back broad and straight, ribs well rounded. Loin wide and very muscular.

*Tail*.—Set on rather high, moderately bushy, similar to



that of the fox; carried low when in repose, and when excited or in motion not higher than the line of the back.

*Legs and Feet.*—Fore legs perfectly straight, strong in bone, and of good length. Hind legs heavy in bone; hocks well bent, and thighs very muscular. Feet large, compact, with well-arched toes.

*Dew-claws*, to be of value, must be distinct toes, and form part of the hind feet.

*Size.*—A dog should be at least 30in. in height at the shoulder, and a bitch 27in. (the taller the better, provided the symmetry is maintained); thoroughly well proportioned, and of great substance. The general outline should suggest great power and capability of endurance.

*Coat*, in the long-coated variety, should be dense and flat; rather fuller round the neck, so as to form a ruff; thighs feathered, but not too heavily. In the short-coated variety, it should be close and hound-like, slightly feathered on thighs and tail.

*Colour and Markings.*—Orange, mahogany-brindle, red-brindle, grey-brindle, or white, with patches on body of either of the above named colours. The markings should be as follow: White muzzle, white blaze up face, white collar round neck, white chest, white feet and end of tail; black shadings on face and ears. If the blaze be wide and run through to the collar, a spot of the body colour on the top of the head is desirable.

#### OBJECTIONABLE POINTS.

Dudley, liver, flesh-coloured, or split nose; unlevel mouth and cankered teeth; snipy muzzle; light or staring eyes; cheek bumps; wedge head; flat skull; badly set



or heavily feathered ears; too much peak; short neck; curly coat; curled tail; flat sides; hollow back; roach back; ring tail; open feet, or hare feet; cow-hocks; straight hocks; fawn, black-tan-and-white, or self-coloured.

## SCALE OF POINTS.

Head and expression	.	.	.	.	.	20
Neck	.	.	.	.	.	5
Shoulders	.	.	.	.	.	5
Chest	.	.	.	.	.	5
Body and loin	.	.	.	.	.	10
Tail	.	.	.	.	.	5
Legs and feet	.	.	.	.	.	10
Dew-claws (as represented by fifth toe)	.	.	.	.	.	5
Size	.	.	.	.	.	15
Coat	.	.	.	.	.	10
Colour and markings	.	.	.	.	.	10
Total						100

The following description has been drawn up and kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. L. C. R. Norris-Elye:—

When asked to put on paper a few words on St. Bernards for publication in this volume, I decided that the most useful thing I could do would be to put into writing the views, especially on certain disputable points, of those whom I believe to be the best living judges.

As to *head*, the point of first importance in every breed (because it shows in the most concentrated form the distinct characteristics of each race of dogs, as distinguished from others, perhaps alike in size, but differing in type), the head of a St. Bernard should be large, wide, short rather than long in proportion to width, and



deep—a characteristic point being the great depth of face just below the eye. The jaw should be square, neither overhung nor underhung; the lip deep, though not Bloodhound-like; the face well filled out under the eye; the muzzle wide; the nose not turned up; the eye rather small than large, not prominent, dark in colour, gentle, and remarkable for a somewhat melancholy expression when the dog is at rest (the haw may be shown more or less, though if in excess I think it rather ugly). The frontal development should be considerable, forming a distinct stop, with a marked depression up the centre of the forehead. The skull should not be domed, though massive, and with the eyebrows prominent.

The *ears* should rather be small and thin in texture than the contrary, carried close to the head, not set on too high, and not Terrier like. The inside of the ear should not be visible when the dog is at rest. The large ears, so prevalent, detract much from the true St. Bernard appearance, though, in judging, too great weight should not be allowed against rather long ears if they are carried well.

The *body* should be powerful, long, yet well ribbed back, the ribs being well sprung to avoid any appearance of flat-sidedness, deep both in chest and loin, and as massive and powerful as possible, provided that activity is retained.

The *legs* should be straight and strong, the bone large, stifles well bent, but perhaps the hocks may be allowed closer together than in any other breed, though not in such a degree as to constitute “cow-hocks” or to give a shambling appearance. The question of dew-claws has been much debated. My own feeling—with which, I believe, the majority agree—is that if set on close to the foot they



are a point in the breed, *failing five toes*, and that they are certainly a half-way house to five toes my own breeding experience has convinced me. That five toes are an advantage, firstly in the increased foothold on snow, and secondly in the tendency towards greater *bone* which follows on greater foot development, I have no doubt; but though I wish to retain dew-claws, or five toes, as a desirable point in a St. Bernard, I do not wish to see the absence of them too heavily penalised.

The *tail* of a St. Bernard should be carried low; this gives a very distinct character to the race, though many good ones appear to less advantage than they otherwise would, from the fault of a too gay carriage of the stern when moving.

The *back* should be level, but I much prefer seeing a St. Bernard apparently too high on the hind legs, to the opposite extreme occasionally met with, when a dog, good in front, seems to slope off towards his hind quarters, having thereby an appearance of weakness.

The *coat* of a rough St. Bernard should not be too long, nor silky, but of medium length, and more or less stiff. It should be of extraordinary closeness: a first-rate coat is difficult to wash, it being almost impossible to thoroughly wet it to the skin. It should be flat, or only slightly wavy, certainly not curly. There should not be too much hair on the ears, nor on the hind legs, nor between the toes.

The best *colours* are, undoubtedly, orange and rich brindle; in each case with white markings and black shadings. The next best is white, marked with orange or brindle. Other colours are not strictly admissible, and



black and tan, black, tan, and white should be at once turned out of the ring. Fawns are also very objectionable.

I much dislike a brown nose, and should myself neither breed from, nor award even a commendation to, a St. Bernard with this disfigurement.

In conclusion, I would point out that heads of the Sheepdog, Bloodhound, or Mastiff type are not truly typical of the St. Bernard.

I have now to submit the descriptive standard as defined by Mr. J. F. Smith; and it may be necessary, for the information of some readers, that I should say all of the four gentlemen whose descriptions are here given are eminent breeders and public judges of St. Bernards. Mr. Smith writes as follows:—

In temperament, if properly reared, the St. Bernard is affectionate, and, I believe, wiser than any other class of dog; he is easily taught, and obedient to the slightest command. I have kept almost every breed of dog, and have renounced all in favour of the St. Bernard; and I could fill a book with anecdotes of my favourites, which are not only dogs, but friends and companions.

*Head.*—The head, which is an indication of purity of breed, should be very massive and large, showing great depth from eye to lower jaw; the face should be rather short; the muzzle wide, deep, and cut off square; the lips should hang down well and be rather loose, but not to approach the flew as seen in the Bloodhound; the stop to be well defined, but not too abrupt, or it spoils the whole appearance of the head; the skull must be



massive, full, and well rounded; the occipital protuberance being shown distinct, but not too prominent.

*Ears.*—Rather small, lying well to the cheek, and very slightly feathered.

*Eyes.*—Should be dark in colour, of medium size, and rather deeply set, the lower eyelid drooping slightly, so as to show a little of the red haw.

*Nose.*—Black in colour, wide and deep, with well-developed nostrils.

*Teeth.*—Large, well shaped, and level.

*Neck.*—Lengthy and well developed, with muscle, and arched.

*Shoulders.*—Broad, strong, and well sloped.

*Chest.*—Wide and deep.

*Loin.*—Wide, muscular, and well ribbed up.

*Body.*—Rather long, broad, straight, and ribs well rounded.

*Tail.*—Set on rather high, of fair length, and moderately well feathered in the rough variety, in the smooth variety free from feather; it should be carried low when not excited.

*Legs and Feet.*—Fore legs must be perfectly straight, with great bone and muscle; hind legs heavy in bone; hocks and stifles well bent; feet large and compact.

*Dew-claws.*—So much importance is not attached to dew-claws as formerly; as usually seen they are a great disfigurement, and a source of much pain and inconvenience. It is sheer nonsense to suppose they are an indication of purity of breed. I have seen many varieties of dogs, cats, and even rats, with single and double dew-claws, also with fifth and even sixth toes.



*Coat.*—In the rough variety it should be dense and flat, not woolly, rather fuller round the neck, so as to form a ruff (but on no account must it resemble the frill of a Colley), the thighs and tail being feathered, but not too heavily. In the smooth-coated it should be short, dense, and lie close, being free from feather on the neck, thighs, and tail.

*Colour and Markings.*—Orange, orange tawny, and all shades of brindle and red, with white patches on body. The markings should be as follow: White muzzle, white blaze up face, the white being shaded with black, also black shadings on the ears, white collar round neck, white chest, legs, and tip of tail.

*Size.*—As large as you can get—the taller the better, provided the dog is proportionate all round. A dog should be at least 31in. at shoulder, and a bitch 28in. Many of our best dogs will be from 32in. to 34in., and the bitches from 29in. to 32in. I have heard of dogs being 35in. and 36in. at shoulder, but I must say I have never yet seen a dog over 34½in. fair measure, and, I believe, I have at one time or another owned the largest dogs we have had.

*Character.*—You may judge a dog by points, and he may be at the top of the tree if you do not take *character* into consideration (and this very point is the most important of all), for a St. Bernard's head combines nothing but what is good; in it are depicted nobility and dignity combined with benevolence and wisdom. I speak very strongly on this point: however good a dog was in other respects, I would throw him out of competition if he did not show character.



*Symmetry.*—The dog should be well-proportioned all over, the general outline should suggest great power and capability of endurance, and show the attributes of the breed in every respect.

## SCALE OF POINTS.

Head	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
Neck and shoulders	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Chest and loin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Body	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Tail	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Legs and feet	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Coat	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Colour and markings	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Size	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Character and symmetry	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Total	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100

OBJECTIONABLE POINTS.—Dudley, liver, or flesh-coloured nose; split nose; snipy muzzle; cankered teeth; undershot or overshot jaws; light or staring eyes; flat skull; wedge head; heavy dewlap; badly set or carried ears; too much peak; curly or open coat; short neck; curled tail; ring tail; flat sides; hollow back; roach back; splayed feet; cow-hocks; hocks turned outwards; bent fore legs; fawn, black-and-white, black-tan-and-white, or self-coloured.

Corresponding in date with the publication of the standard drawn up by Messrs. Arthur Carter and Frederick Gresham for the St. Bernard Club, the following Swiss standard appeared:



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STANDARD ADOPTED BY THE SWISS KYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
IN 1886.

(A) *The Smooth-coated St. Bernard.*

*General Character.*—Powerful, tall, with great muscular development in all parts of the body; an imposing head, and very intelligent eyes. In dogs with a dark mask the expression is more serious, but never sour.

*Head.*—Large, in correct proportion to the powerful body, very imposing, and well developed. Stop well marked. Skull wide, and of the shape of a flat arch, showing an indication of peak. A clearly defined indentation starts between the eyes and reaches far up the forehead. The bone above the eyes very strongly developed, and its position towards the axis of the head forms a right angle. The skin around the before-mentioned indentation on the forehead, round the eyes, and about the middle of the skull, is drawn more or less into wrinkles. Muzzle straight, *not* arched, and shorter than its diameter from the stop downwards: looked at full face, the muzzle appears blunt. Flews slightly overhanging, but underlips not pendent. Teeth not powerful in proportion to size of animal. A black roof to mouth is much liked.

*Nose.*—Large, with well-dilated nostrils, and always black, like the lips.

*Ears.*—Thin, wide, and moderately high set on, lying flat to the side without wrinkle, of medium length, broad at the top, getting narrower towards the point, but well rounded.

*Eyes.*—Of medium size; brown, nut-brown, similar to those of a Setter, with an intelligent and friendly ex-



pression; set moderately deep. The lower eyelids form, as a rule, near the inner corner of the eye, a slight wrinkle, but lids which are very pendent, showing the haw, are never admissible.

*Neck.*—Short and thick, powerful, very muscular, and arched, carried well upwards, the junction between head and neck marked by a distinct line; clearly noticeable dewlaps, but a too great development is not desirable.

*Shoulders.*—Broad and sloping.

*Chest.*—Broad, moderately deep, the lower part not to reach below the elbows.

*Back.*—Broad, quite straight beyond the loins, if anything slightly arched over the loins, hardly noticeable, sloping towards the root of the tail.

*Belly.*—Slightly drawn up near the loins.

*Tail.*—Of medium length, very broad at the root, not ending in a fine point; quite straight, or in the lower third—that is, towards the point—slightly bent upwards. The best kind of tail is the one that in formation and covering resembles the tail of an otter. In repose it ought to hang down straight, or have a slight curve similar to an *f*; in excitement level with the back, or slightly above, but never curled over the back.

*Fore Legs.*—Straight and powerful.

*Hind Legs.*—Slightly bent in the hocks; the feet, according to the presence of single or double dew-claws, more or less turned out, which is not to be mistaken for being cow-hocked.

*Feet.*—Broad, with well-arched and closed toes.

*Coat.*—Very close, broken-haired; thighs slightly bushy; on the tail not strikingly longer than on the body.



*Colour.*—White-and-red or red-and-white, the red in all shades; white, with grey-yellowish or grey-brownish spots, or these colours with white markings. Red-and-grey to count of equal value. Essential markings are white feet, chest, point of tail; white collar is desirable. Never self-coloured, or without white. Faulty are also all other colours, with the exception of the favourite dark shadings on the head and ears.

*Height at the Shoulder.*—Minimum for the dog, 27½ in. for the bitch, 24 in. The bitch's form is throughout the more delicate.

*Faults.*—A red nose, or split; ears set on too high; saddle-back; crooked fore legs; coarse tail, and carried too high, or too much curled; self-colour, black-and-white, white-and-black, black, or yellow. The absence or presence of single or double dew-claws is of no importance, as they cannot be considered as signs of purity of breed; but they are liked the same as a black roof to the mouth is much valued.

(B) *The Rough-coated St. Bernard.*

*General Character.*—The same as the smooth-coated variety, only the body is rather longer, and there are slight differences in the following points.

*Head.*—The indentation between the eyes is less marked. The wrinkles on the forehead are only indicated, which gives the head a milder and better-tempered expression. The ears short towards the points, and covered with velvety hair; a little longer hair at their roots is admissible.

*Chest.*—Little deeper.

*Tail.*—Long, slightly bushy, similar to that of the fox.



Hair on the top of the tail not curly or parted, nor having the appearance of a flag.

*Fore Feet.*—Well closed, smaller than in the smooth-coated dog.

*Hind Legs.*—A little more bent in the hocks.

*Coat.*—Of medium length, flat, slightly wavy, but never curly or bushy; short on the head, ears, and lower part of the legs; fore legs slightly feathered.

*Colour and Markings.*—The same as in the smooth-coated.

None of the proposed standards proving acceptable to all St. Bernard breeders, an International Congress was held at Zurich in June, 1887, when the following standard of points was agreed upon. The translation I here give is from *The Stock-keeper*, and differs somewhat from others that have been published. Our English St. Bernard Club has not, as a body, adopted any standard in a formal way. It seems to me a pity that the half-dozen I have reproduced here cannot be knocked into one, which should be no very difficult task even if it included making that one more concise, exact, and intelligible than any one of them.

STANDARD OF POINTS OF THE ST. BERNARD, ADOPTED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT ZURICH, ON JUNE 2, 1887.

*The Short-haired (Smooth) St. Bernard.*

*General Character.*—Powerful, tall, upstanding, with hard muscular development. Massive head and very intelligent expression. In dogs with dark face markings, the expression is more solemn, but ought never to be sour.

*Head*, like the body, very powerful and imposing; the massive skull is wide, slightly arched, and sloping at the



sides with a gentle curve into the very well-developed cheek-bones.

*Occiput*.—Only slightly developed.

The supra-orbital ridge is strongly developed and forms nearly a right angle with the horizontal axis of the head. Between the supra-orbital arches at the root of the muzzle begins a deep furrow, which, clearly defined in the first half, extends over the whole skull, getting gradually shallow towards the occiput. The lines at the sides, from the outer corners of the eyes, diverge considerably towards the back of the head. The skin on the forehead forms over the supra-orbital arches deep wrinkles, which converge towards the above-mentioned furrow. They are particularly noticeable when the animal is very animated, without giving it a savage expression.

*Stop*.—Clearly defined.

*Muzzle*.—Short, not snipy, and an imaginary line through the muzzle straight down from the stop must be longer than the length of the muzzle. The bridge of the muzzle is straight, not arched, and, in some good dogs, slightly broken. From the root of the muzzle or stop descends its whole length to the nose a rather wide, well-marked, shallow furrow.

The strongly-developed lips of the upper jaw do not form an angle at the turning point, but slope with a graceful curve into their lower edge, and are slightly overhanging. The lips of the lower jaw must not be pendent. Teeth in proportion to the size of the head, only moderately large. Black roof to the mouth preferred.

*Nose*.—Very substantial and broad, with well-dilated nostrils, and, like the lips, always black.



*Ears.*—Medium-sized, with the burr strongly developed, which causes them to stand away slightly at the base and, bending suddenly, they drop without any curl close to the side of the head. The flaps are not too leathery, and form rounded triangles slightly elongated towards the points. The front edge ought to lie close to the head, but the back edge may stand away a little, particularly when the dog is at attention. Ears with weak burr, causing them to lie close to the head from their roots, give it an oval shape, which imparts too much softness to the outline, whereas strongly developed ear-muscles make the skull appear more angular and wider, thus giving the head more character.

*Eyes.*—Set more to the front than the sides, are of moderate size, brown or nut-brown, with an intelligent and friendly expression, set moderately deep. The lower eyelids do not, as a rule, fit close to the eyeballs, and form towards the inner corner an angular wrinkle. Eyelids which are too pendent, with conspicuously protruding lachrymal glands, or a very red haw, are objectionable.

*Neck.*—Set on high, and carried upright when the animal is animated, otherwise horizontal or slightly downward. The junction between head and neck distinctly indicated. The neck is very muscular, and rounded at the sides, giving it an appearance of shortness. Clearly noticeable dewlaps, but a too great development not desirable.

*Shoulders.*—Sloping and broad, very muscular and powerful. The part of the body answering to the withers in the horse well developed.

*Chest.*—Well arched, moderately deep, not reaching below the elbows.



*Back.*—Very broad, and only slightly arched over the loins. Otherwise straight to the hip, and from the hip gently sloping to the rump, it merges gradually into the tail. Hind-quarters well developed; legs very muscular.

*Belly.*—Only slightly drawn up, and showing distinctly where it joins the very powerful region of the kidneys.

*Tail.*—Starting broad and powerful directly from the rump, is long, very heavy, ending in a blunt tip. In repose it hangs straight down, turning gently upwards in the lower third. In many specimens the point is slightly turned up (as, according to old pictures, in all former Hospice dogs), and hangs, therefore, in shape of an *f*; in excitement all dogs carry their tails more or less raised, but it must not go to the extent of being erect, or even curled over the back; a slight curling round of the tip is sooner admissible.

*Arms.*—Very powerful, and extraordinarily muscular.

*Forearms.*—Straight and strong.

*Hind Legs.*—Slightly bent in the hocks, and, according to the presence of single or double dew-claws, the feet turn outwards more or less, which, however, must not be understood to mean cow-hocked.

*Feet.*—Broad, with strong toes, moderately well closed up, and knuckles rather high. The single or double dew-claws set on low, so as to be almost on a level with the pad of the foot, giving a greater surface, and preventing the dog from breaking so easily through the snow.

There are dogs which have on their hind feet a regular developed fifth toe (thumb). The so-called dew-claws (Wolfsklauen), which sometimes occur on the inside of the hind legs, are imperfectly developed toes; they are of no



use to the dog, and are not taken into consideration in judging.

*Coat.*—Very dense, broken-haired, lying smooth, hard, without being rough to the touch. Thighs are slightly feathered. The hair at the root of the tail is rather long and dense, getting gradually shorter towards the point. The tail appears bushy, but not feathered.

*Colour.*—White with red, or red with white, the red in all its various shades; white with light to dark barred brindle patches, or these colours with white markings. The colours red, brindle, and tawny, are of equal value. Obligatory markings are white chest, feet, point of tail, and white round the nose and collar. The white spot on the nape of the neck and a blaze are much desired. Never self-coloured, or without any white. All other colours are faulty, except the favourite dark shadings in the face markings, and on the ears.

*Height at Shoulder.*—Dogs (measured with the Hound measure) ought not to be less than 70cm., and bitches 75cm. [ $27\frac{1}{2}$ in. and  $25\frac{5}{8}$ in.]. The bitches are throughout of a less powerful and slighter build than the dogs.

Variations from these points are to be considered faulty.

*The Long-haired (Rough) St. Bernard.*

The long-haired dog is exactly like the other with the exception of the coat, which ought not to be broken-haired, but of medium length, smooth or slightly wavy, never very wavy, curly, or shaggy. The coat is, as a rule, more wavy on the back, particularly in the region of the hip and the rump. The same thing is slightly noticeable in the short-haired, even the Hospice dogs.



The *tail* is bushy, with much but moderately long hair. Wavy or locky hair on the tail is not desirable. A feathered tail, or one with a parting, is faulty.

*Face* and *ears* covered with short, soft hair. At the basis of the ears, longer silky hair is permissible; in fact, this occurs nearly always, and must be considered normal. The feather on the fore legs is only slight, but on the thighs it appears bushy.

*Faults* are all formations which indicate a Newfoundland cross, such as a saddle back and a disproportionately long back, hocks too much bent, and spaces between the toes with upward-growing hair.

(Signed) BARON A. VON RAUCH (Delegate of the German Commission).

LUDWIG BECKMANN, Düsseldorf.

H. INMAN BETTERTON, England.

MAX HARTENSTEIN, Plauen (Committee Member "Hector," Berlin).

RADETZKI (President of the Club "Hector," Berlin).

E. K. KORTHALS, Biebesheim, Hessen.

C. PINGGERA, Kennel "Bavaria," Munich.

B. SIEGMUND, Basel, { Delegates of the  
DR. TH. KUNZLI, St. { "Schweizer Kynolo-  
Gallen { gische Gesellschaft."

HERMANN DUR, Burgdorf (Delegate of the Swiss St. Bernard Club).

DR. MACHWURTH VON LUTTWITZ, Zürich (President of the "Schweizer Kynol. Gesellschaft").

DR. C. VON MURALT-WILD, Zürich (Member of the Stud Book Committee).

A. RITTMANN, Basel (Member Committee "Schweizer Kynolog. Gesellschaft").

Zürich, June 2.



In dealing with the opinions of these doughty champions of this unparalleled dog, I will begin at the end, by assuring Mr. Smith of my sympathy with his admiration of the breed; but I am in very close connection with lovers of many breeds, and I find all say much the same thing of the virtues of their pets: passionate lovers are proverbially unsafe critics, and criticism is our present business.

In my earlier article on the breed I accepted the standard as drawn up by "Stonehenge," but expressed my dissent on some points. I retain that standard here, because of its general accuracy and excellence, and that it may be seen wherein there is a tendency now to diverge from what was the accepted standard a dozen years ago. It is as follows:—

"The *head* is large and massive, but is without the width of the Mastiff. The dimensions are extended chiefly in height and length, the occipital protuberance being specially marked, and, coupled with the height of brow, serving also to distinguish it from the Newfoundland. The face is long, and cut off square at the nose, which is intermediate in width between those of the Newfoundland and Mastiff. Lips pendulous, approaching in character to the Bloodhound type, but much smaller. *Ears* of medium size, carried close to the cheeks, and covered with silky hair. *Eyes* full in size, but deeply sunk, and showing the haw, which is often as red as that of the Bloodhound.

"*Line of Poll*.—Great stress is laid by the monks on this marking, which is supposed to resemble the white lace bands round the neck and waist of the gown worn by the Benedictine monks, the two being connected by a



strip carried up the back. A dog marked with white in the same manner is supposed to be peculiarly consecrated to his work, and is kept most carefully to it. Hence it is in this country also regarded as a characteristic of the breed, but it is seldom met with in anything like a perfect state of development; Monarque being more perfect in this respect than any other dog ever exhibited.

*“Shape of Body and Neck.”*—There is nothing remarkable about the neck, except that there is generally a certain amount of throatiness, to which there is no objection. The body ought to be well proportioned, with a full chest, the girth of which should be double that of the head, and half the length of the body from nose to tip of tail; the loin should be full, and the hips wide.

*“In size and symmetry* this breed should be up to a full standard—that is to say, equal to the English Mastiff. Indeed, excepting in colour, in the dew-claws, and in the shape of head, the smooth St. Bernard very closely resembles that dog. He is generally more active in his movements, from having been more worked than his English compeer, who for generations has been kept on the chain.

*“Legs and Feet.”*—Of course, in so large a dog the legs must be straight and strong, while the feet also must be large, in order to avoid sinking through the snow. The last point is greatly insisted on by the monks, who prefer even what would be considered here a splay foot to a small and compact one.

*“Dew-claws.”*—There is no doubt that the double dew-claw on the hind legs has in some way been introduced into the strain of dogs used at the two Alpine monasteries, but



how it is now impossible to say. Both Tell and Monarque exhibited this peculiarity, as well as most of the dogs admitted to be imported from the Hospice. Gessler, however, who showed every other point of the breed in a very marked degree, had no dew-claw at all on his hind legs; and his son Alp, though out of Hedwig, sister to Tell, was equally deficient. It is very doubtful whether this peculiarity is sufficiently permanent in any strain to be an evidence of purity or impurity, and consequently its value is only placed at 5, making the negative deduction 10 when wholly absent.

"The *temperament* of the St. Bernard is very similar to that of the Mastiff—that is to say, if suitably managed, the dog is capable of great control over his actions, whether in the absence or presence of his owner. When kept on the chain he is, like other dogs, apt to become savage, and there is almost always an instinctive dislike to tramps and vagabonds. He is a capital watch and guard, and attaches himself strongly to his master or mistress.

"The *colour* of this dog varies greatly. The most common is red-and-white, the white being preferred when distributed after the pattern described above. Fawn-and-white and brindle-and-white come next, marked in the same way, the brindle being a very rich one, with an orange-tawny shade in it, as shown in Tell, and to a lesser degree in his nephew Alp. Sometimes the dog is wholly white, or very nearly so, as in the case of Hospice and Sir C. H. Isham's Leo.

"The *coat* in the rough variety is wavy over the body, bushy in the tail, and feathering the legs, being generally



silky, but sparsely so, on the ears. In the smooth variety, the depth and thickness of the coat are the points to be regarded."

The ostensible purpose in publishing a description of a breed, as represented in an ideal specimen, is to give the means of learning to those who wish to do so. It appears to me that such purpose would be better served by first describing the animal as he presents himself to the eye of an observer, it may be for the first time, in such word-painting as the describer is capable of. The process adopted by the gentlemen whose descriptions I have given omits that preliminary, and proceeds to analyse, or rather to anatomise, the dog, describing and assessing the principal divisions of his body, leaving the reader to put them together to show the complete structure. It would certainly be much easier for the novice to accomplish the synthesis if he had a clear mental photograph of the living animal before being called upon to follow the operations of dissection. I will, however, as the more convenient plan left us, take the subject as it is before us and attempt the general description after dealing *seriatim* with the individual points.

*Head.*—Mr. J. F. Smith says that the head gives an indication of purity of breed, which is a very judicious remark, although not invariably true; and if those conversant with many breeds will apply it to their experience I believe they will find few instances in which it does not agree. Mr. Norris-Elye expresses himself similarly, but goes further, and I cannot endorse his opinion that the head "shows in the most concentrated form the distinct characteristics of each race of dogs." It is not



so in the Dachshund, for instance, and I think most readers will agree with me that a fair test of Mr. Norris-Elye's dictum would be to take a dozen each of the heads of acceptedly first-rate Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, and St. Bernards, and, removing their outer covering—that is, the hair—ask a dozen admittedly good dog-judges of each variety to pick out those of the breed they affect. (I would except from the test some of the abnormalities in Mastiffs we have had of late years.) It is not difficult to imagine the confusion that would arise. There is a general agreement in the expression “large and massive,” and it can scarcely be considered redundant to use the double description, for the general shape gives the impression of solidity as well as bigness.

*Measurements* are a nearer approach to accuracy of description, and give one a better opportunity of comparison.

The following published measurements will show that “circumference of skull rather more than double the length of head from nose to occiput” equally applies to the breeds I have referred to above. Taking the four Newfoundlands Leo, Mayor of Bingley, Help, and Woman in Black, the mean is—

Circumference of skull,  $24\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Length from occiput to nose,  $11\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Of the Mastiffs Wolsey, Magnus, Creole, and Sylvia III., the mean is—

Circumference of skull,  $25\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Length from occiput to nose,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Of the St. Bernards Tell, Bayard, Cadwallader, and Oscar, the mean is—



Circumference of skull,  $26\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Length from occiput to nose,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in.

These figures show how nearly the three breeds approach in the proportion of girth to length of head when we take good average specimens. The difference between the breed of the St. Bernard and the other two breeds is most marked in the greater depth from eye downwards.

In regard to the *lip*, I consider "Stonehenge's" description clearer, because it gives a standard by which to compare—"pendulous, approaching in character to the Bloodhound type, but much smaller."

The *haw* is not now seen so largely developed as it frequently was ten to fifteen years ago in what were then considered good specimens. As a matter of taste, I consider it is an improvement to have bred it out, for if at all large it gives a sinister look damaging to the general expression of the face.

The *nose*, by which is meant the cartilaginous structure at the extremity of the face, should correspond in size with the muzzle. A narrow pinched nose is at once an eyesore and a defect, for it has not sufficient surface for the olfactory membrane; and for this same reason any tendency to encourage breeding very short-faced St. Bernards should be resisted, for that form would diminish their scenting powers. The nose has a roughened surface, and the two alæ, or lips, are so shaped that the two nostrils formed by them and the septum which divides them are exactly like two opposite commas (.,.)—the cartilage comes down, is folded over to form the septum or division wall of the nostrils, and presents a flat surface slightly narrowing



downwards towards a fine slit, called the median groove. Here the cartilage again swells in width, narrowing as it curves outward below the nostrils. I think it would be better to describe the nose as large and black, with the wings well spread and nostrils wide.

The *ear* is another point that has been, I think, improved. At one time many dogs were seen at shows with long ragged fringes of hair on the ears, which were out of keeping with the general coat.

I do not think the *neck* of the St. Bernard should be described as lengthy. It is so by comparison with that of a Bulldog, but very far from being so if we take the Greyhound for comparison. It appears to me that the Club would give a more definite and clearer expression to their descriptive standard by stating the relative length of neck to head and back in a perfectly-shaped dog. I have not the mass of measurements at command which would justify me in laying down an absolute rule; but the Club has such measurements at command, and the principle is admitted by the comparison of the length and girth of the head. I believe the length of neck will be found in the measurements of, say, a hundred good specimens, very near to one-fourth of the whole length from nose to set-on of tail. I do not think that very much throatiness or dewlap is to be encouraged; where there is excess there will be in correlation deep flews, weighing the lower eyelids down and largely exposing the haw.

If we now take into consideration the *trunk* of the dog, it seems to have been dealt with in a rather too general and mere sketchy way. "Stonehenge" strikes the right key when he says: "Girth of chest, double



that of the head, and half the length of the body from nose to tip of tail." If, however, "Stonehenge" means that the girth of chest is to measure half of the entire length of the dog from nose to set-on of tail, I must point out that such is not the case; and, indeed, there is another objection, which is, that the tail varies in proportionate length. If we take the length from nose to set-on of tail, the length of back represents, as near as possible, one-half; and if a great number of admittedly well-made dogs were carefully measured and the mean taken, the Club would be enabled to set up a much more definite standard and one much easier to be understood and applied than the rather vague description conveyed by such terms as "lengthy neck," "wide and moderately deep chest," "body rather long," "tail fair length," so wanting in clearness and precision.

The *tail* is properly described by Messrs. Carter and Gresham; but one reads, not without astonishment, that under no circumstances must it be carried "higher than the line of the back," and Mr. Norris-Elye's opinion that "the tail of a St. Bernard should be carried low—this gives a very distinct character to the race." I know of no dog that cannot and does not raise his tail higher than the line of the back except the Bulldog, and, as everyone must acknowledge, the tail of the Bulldog is deformed; and the logic of facts quite disposes of Mr. Norris-Elye's opinion. There have been "trindle-tails" since the Prioress of Sopewell gave the first printed list of British dogs, but the peculiarity has never been held as a trait to be admired; but, on the contrary, the expression is used rather to denote contempt for something worthless. It



certainly does not commend itself as a point of beauty, and one to be encouraged, that a St. Bernard should curl his tail over and between his hips till the lower side of it rests on, or just over, the middle of his back; but to say he must not carry the tail higher than his back is, to my mind, absurd. The dog is supposed to be used as a hound is on the trail, and there is much pretence of preserving the characteristics of the dog as recognised by those who first bred him. But of all the nonsense written about the dog by some of the monks, and those who have followed them—and that has not been a little—I have not met with anything much worse than this new schism, be responsible for it who may. It may be that some good dogs have shown this peculiarity; but if so, it was a decided fault, to be condemned and bred out, and not a feature to be admired and insisted on in a standard of excellence, for it is a deviation from the general law of Nature, not a desirable development of it.

The only objection I can see to the description of *legs* and *feet* is this: The large foot that is insisted on, to prevent the dog from sinking in the snow, must be a broad, spreading foot, and not a compact one, with well-arched toes. But to that I will revert, and deal with it more fully in discussing dew-claws and the fifth toe.

The *colour* and *markings* are very generally agreed upon, and I think those now most popular decidedly preferable to self-colours; and, other things being equal, the handsomer marked dogs, being more pleasing to the eye, should have precedence. In my earlier article, to which I have already referred, I pleaded the cause of



self-coloured ones, both because I objected to the reasons given for preferring those marked in what was called the orthodox fashion, and because, considering the dog as a whole, I thought far too much value was put upon one of the most changeable features. It was in dealing with "Stonehenge's" description that I wrote as follows :

"First, as to the line up the poll. 'Stonehenge,' after describing the dress and badge of the Benedictine monks, says, 'A dog marked with white in the same manner is supposed to be peculiarly consecrated to his work,' and adds, 'There is no rational objection to the value apportioned to this point.' I, on the other hand, think there is more than one rational objection to it: First, as he gives ten positive points for this line up the poll, and five more for colour distributed as he describes it, a self-coloured dog like Mr. Du Maurier's magnificent dog Chang, or Dr. Russell's grand young bitch Muren, would be debited with fifteen negative points, or a difference of thirty points less than one marked after this arbitrary fashion; and to my mind this is eminently unjust. On this rule, Meuthon would never have won a prize, and in that case the rule would have done good; but by it Chang, Muren, and many other good ones, would be debarred from winning.

"The second objection I have to it, and which I hope readers will not consider an irrational one, is that, to my mind, it is an anachronism to introduce a monkish superstition as a factor in the practical work of dog-judging in the present day. I remember seeing Mr. Samuel Lang and Mr. William Lort engaged, at the Crystal Palace, for about

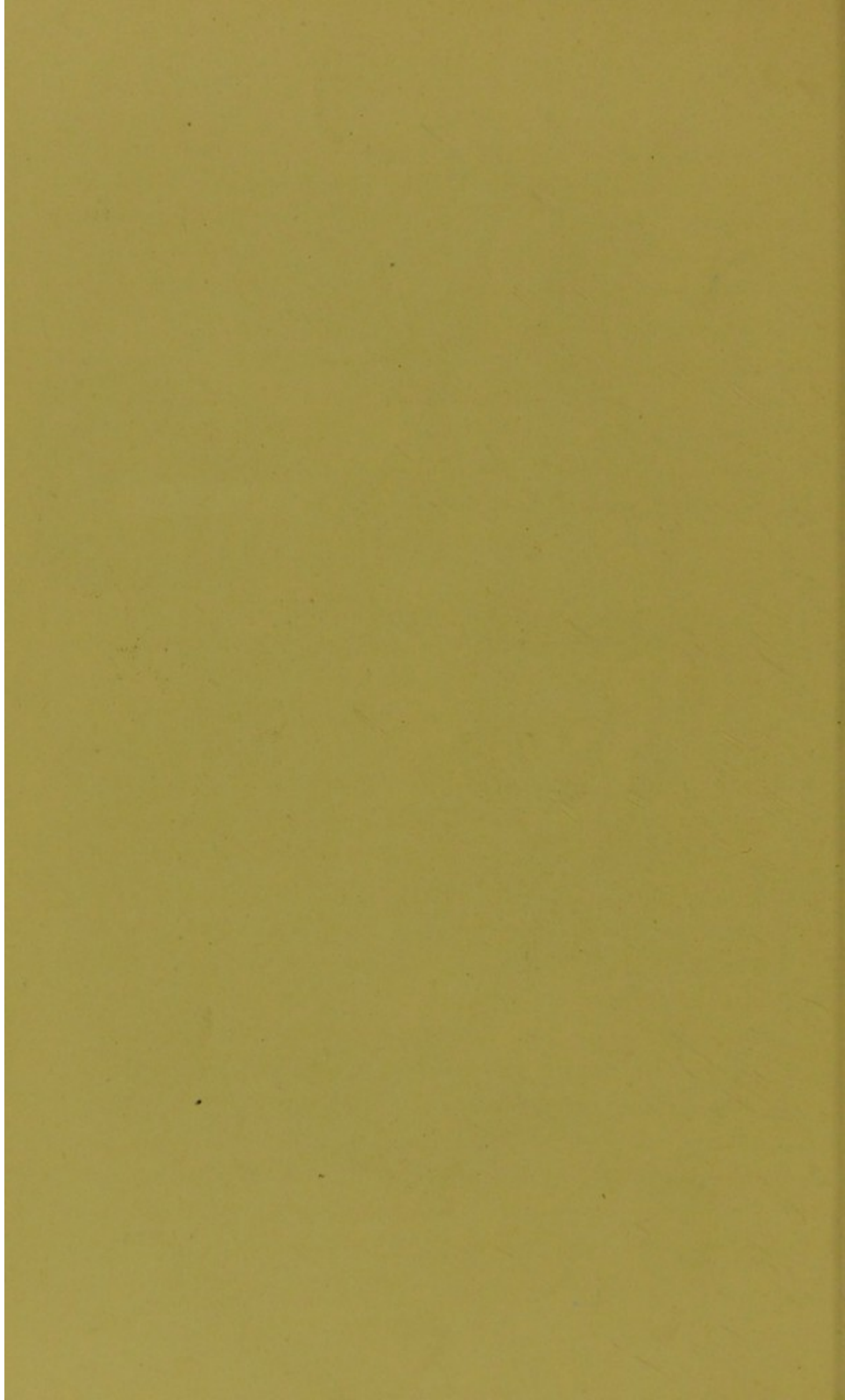




ST. BERNARD.

Mr. G. Busson Du Maurier's CHANG. Sire, Champion Thor (K.C.S.B., 2462), by Leo ex Souldan; Dam, Countess, by Meuthon (K.C.S.B., 2443) ex Alp.







two hours, in judging a large class of costermongers' donkeys, but I have no recollection that they were influenced by, or even looked for, that cross on the back which surely as 'peculiarly consecrates' an ass as the fancied resemblance of a mark of white to the badge of a Benedictine monk does a St. Bernard dog."

Etienne Métroz, a principal of the Hospice, declares that colour is of no consequence, which is in direct contradiction of the statements of the monks to "Idstone" and other visitors, for they laid stress on colour, and "considered the white line from forehead to poll as a mark of purity."

We English are breeding St. Bernards from the purest stock the monks and Swiss fanciers who were laymen possessed and were very glad to sell us, and we breed them for beauty of symmetry and to a standard as to colour and markings that suits our taste; and in doing so we have very greatly improved the dog as a dog, and there is no doubt our example has stimulated the original owners to greatly increased exertions in the same direction. We are amply justified in setting up for ourselves an arbitrary standard of beauty in respect of such now essential points as colour markings; but, as I shall presently endeavour to show, we would go wrong in insisting on material structural alterations such as would make the St. Bernard a dog that Nature has not designed, but, on the contrary, set her seal of condemnation against.

Unfortunately, it has been too much the fashion with St. Bernard fanciers to write of their pets as though they were not as other dogs—a mere variety of the *Canis*



*familiaris*, which, if it were swept out of existence to-morrow, could be reproduced in facsimile in a few years by a system of intelligent breeding.

The old leaven of fable-mongering is not dead; on the contrary, it is very active, as is evident by the utterances of many who stand high as breeders and judges of St. Bernard dogs. One gentleman, who is a public judge, not long since, on his return from a visit to the Hospice du Grand St. Bernard published his impressions and opinions gathered there. The St. Bernard, he stated repeatedly, was "surrounded with a religious halo, of which fact there exists evidence well authenticated;" and that the St. Bernard is "a religious animal," and we must accept him as such with "all his nobility and prestige." Such emotional outbursts of superstitious nonsense are quite out of keeping with an inquiry into the physical characteristics of any breed of dog, and to claim such glimmerings of morality as the dog has learned from his association with man as peculiarly the property of the St. Bernard is absurd, to say nothing of thoughts and feelings usually supposed to be the peculiar inheritance of, and limited to, man. Such extravagance of language and outrageous laudation, such imputing of mental and moral qualities unknown to brutes, is indeed in keeping with the ignorant superstition that looked upon a dog marked with white—as thousands of dogs not St. Bernards are marked—as peculiarly consecrated to certain work; but such unmitigated twaddle as this is unworthy to be indulged in by anyone treating of a subject in natural history.

*Size* is the next point for us to consider, and it is



certain that the desire for specimens of gigantic size has long existed in this country, and breeders have succeeded marvellously in that direction.

In an article on "Dog Shows," in the *Field* of September 25th, 1886, the writer, who signs himself "Web," says that Murchison's Monarque (generally known as Macdona's) weighed 180lb. in condition. Writing from my own recollection of Monarque, and judging by his contemporaries Tell and Thor, I cannot help thinking this must be an error. Tell's weight, as given by "Stonehenge," was 147lb.; and Thor's weight, as stated on a stud card, where it certainly was not likely to be understated, was 150lb.; and I should have thought Monarque was not more than 10lb. heavier at the most. But even if "Web" is right, it shows Monarque as quite an exception in his time, whilst now there are dozens of St. Bernards of that and even greater weight.

It is now proposed to lay down the rule that "the taller the better, provided the symmetry is maintained;" but, unfortunately, those who lay down this law have in their description left symmetry to take care of itself, as the somewhat loose wording of their standard indicates and the numerical values put on the several points confirm. Another apparent fallacy is to insist that an extra digit on a dog's hind foot is equal to his neck, or his shoulders, or his chest; and that coat, colour, and dew-claw are equal to neck, shoulders, chest, body, and loins, certainly requires explanation. There seems to be a sad want of symmetry in the scale of points, and a dog formed or built that way would assuredly not resemble in construction the famous "One Horse Shay."



Last, and least—although, like many small things, it has made more noise than is consistent with its consequence—we come to the consideration of the *dew-claw* or *dew-claws*, and the new form of the old stupidity, the fifth, and even sixth, toe. It may be thought bold and even presumptuous on my part to write of that as a stupidity which so many favour; but those who think so have at least the satisfaction of knowing that my saying so will not make it a stupidity if it is not so inherently; and on my part I shall endeavour to maintain my position by facts and arguments, in the faint hope that I may convince and convert at least some who now differ from me. I cannot, after the most earnest endeavours, see how it is possible to improve a breed of dog—which is the professed purpose—by taking him out of the species Nature has placed him in—which, among other features special to it, is distinguished by four toes—and making an isolated species of him, distinguished from his congeners by having five or six toes. It appears to me that this new form of the craze which demands an extra toe or toes instead of loose dew-claws is the last refuge of the desperate. I frankly admit that I am on this point one of the minority; but opinions are none the truer because of the number of times they are repeated. I will quote fairly and fully, as far as I know, the published opinions of those in a position giving weight to their views; but, of course, many will necessarily be omitted who are equally worthy to be listened to.

Mr. Cumming Macdona, in the *Field*, quotes from a letter, dated 1867, written by Etienne Métroz, C.R., monk, and custodian of the Hospice Great St. Bernard:—"As to the



dew-claws, we are convinced that, if one meets a dog bearing the name of St. Bernard without having double dew-claws—we are convinced, I assert, that one of its ancestors was not of the true race.” It is scarcely necessary to point out that the fact of Etienne Métroz and his brother monks having convinced themselves that an opinion is a truth does not make it so, and the world nowadays has an awkward way of insisting on reasons for belief. Had Etienne Métroz known, as Mr. Macdona, who quoted him, ought to have known, and, I think, does know, that dew-claws, double and single, are met with in every breed of dog, from the Toy Terrier to the Deerhound and Mastiff, he would not, as he does, claim them as the peculiar property of the St. Bernard. If the absence of dew-claws proves a cross with some other breed, then the presence of dew-claws on a Yorkshire Terrier or a Pug proves that they had a cross of the St. Bernard in them, according to the reasoning of Etienne Métroz. Most writers on the St. Bernard are in favour of extra digits, and Mr. Schumacher, an authority on the breed second to none, writes to me: “Referring to the double claw, I would prefer, if I had the choice between two equally fine dogs, that possessing the double claw. Single claws, 1 point; double claws, 2 points.”

Having now quoted eight authorities—“Stonehenge,” Métroz, Macdona, Schumacher, Norris-Elye, J. F. Smith, A. Carter, and F. Gresham—and admitting I might add many more, I will now give a few opinions on the other side. “Idstone,” in his book “The Dog,” says: “The white line from forehead to poll was considered by the monks as a mark of purity, but *they laid no stress*



*whatever upon the presence or absence of dew-claws on the hind feet*, which some judges of the present day insist upon." The italics are "Idstone's." Mr. A. B. Bailey, a well-known admirer and judge of the breed, in an article entitled "My Swiss Trip," says: "My first stop was to visit the museum at Berne, to see the world-renowned Barry. I was disappointed with him; perhaps I had expected too much. He is very badly preserved. He appears to have had a good coat, short and thick, and *to have been devoid of dew-claws.*" Further on in his article, referring to his visit to the Hospice kennels, he says: "Dew-claws are evidently not insisted on by the monks, and I failed to discover any approach to a fifth toe."

The Rev. Arthur Carter writes to me that he is opposed to dew-claws; yet we see in the standard he is jointly responsible for with Mr. Fred. Gresham, that he advocates extra toes to take the place of dew-claws. I hold Mr. Carter's position to be illogical. A supernumerary digit is not made a necessary part of a dog's anatomy because, as sometimes occurs, the dew-claw has a bony instead of a cartilaginous attachment. I am, however, aware that Mr. Carter objects to the *loose* dew-claw because it tends to produce cow-hocks. Mr. W. O. Hughes-Hughes, whose knowledge of the breed is due to very considerable experience of it in this country and a close study of it as it exists in Switzerland, tells me that in a recent visit he found the Swiss dogs—mostly smooth—showing, generally, more of quality and less coarseness than ours; and that, I am disposed to think, is perhaps to be accounted for by our predilection for great size. Some of the smooth-



coated ones in Switzerland—notably three—it would be hard to match in England. In regard to dew-claws, Mr. Hughes-Hughes speaks with no uncertain sound. He says that to these appendages he has the most rooted objection; he holds them to be a hideous excrescence. “But this is a trifling reason for their discouragement. It is my conviction, founded on abundance of evidence, that dew-claws are one, and, I believe, one of the chief, causes of the cow-hocks, which are the commonest fault met with in the breed. The dew-claws generally rub together as a puppy walks, and it frequently happens that a dew-claw is torn off by the other foot. The animal, therefore, instinctively turns out the toe, the effect of which is to throw the dew-claws to the front, and, of course, at the same time to turn the hock in.” I endorse every word of this opinion, and I believe, if breeders will carefully observe, they will be convinced that cow-hocks and cripples are a natural consequence of the hideous excrescences, dew-claws.

I might quote others on the same side, but the question cannot be satisfactorily settled by the mere counting of votes. Let us, therefore, turn to the consideration of such reasons as we can find advanced in favour of these supernumerary toes, always admitting that, as a mere matter of fancy, the St. Bernard Club, or any other body or individual, is at liberty to advocate any monstrosity, whether it be a dog with six toes on his hind feet, one with a wart on his nose, or one with two tails—which latter, it is proverbially known, is as proud as Ludlam’s dog was lazy, and he was such a sluggard he “leaned his head against the wall to bark.”



In advocating such a wide departure from the normal law, there should be strong reasons advanced in support of a course which otherwise amounts to nothing more than the sticking on to an animal of a hideous excrescence at the dictate of fashion or vulgar fancy. Dog-fancying, and the cultivation of the St. Bernard in particular, being for the most part in the hands of men who pride themselves on being the most reasoning and reasonable of beings, nothing if not logical, it may be possible to reach some of them through the avenues of common sense:

It is said, by the few who are bold enough to attempt to justify the absurdity, that dew-claws, or extra toes, are of use to the St. Bernard in preventing him from sinking in the snow over which he is designed to travel. Now, if that could be granted, it would not serve the English breeder. To begin with, our St. Bernards are not intended to travel over deep snow into which they could sink, and, as the Scotch say, get "smooored." Then, to be logical, if we breed for this feature, which a section of the monks advocate as useful for that purpose, we must give up the idea of breeding dogs "the taller the better if proportionate," and cultivate that medium size combining strength and activity which is rarely found in giants, but which the monks have found to be an absolute necessity in their mountain dogs. Equally we must discard rough coats that hold the snow, and go in for the short, dense coat that resists and throws off the snow. But it would be giving away the truth to admit that either loosely-attached dew-claws or firmly-attached extra toes on the hind feet have any practical or appreciable effect in



keeping a dog weighing, perhaps, 150lb. to 200lb. from sinking in snow.

I often wonder how many, or, rather, how few, of those who write in favour of that theory know anything personally of struggling over and through snow wreaths; not many, I imagine—and of these none seem to stop to think.

If the feet of the St. Bernard are to be of a size big enough to prevent him sinking through snow, what a contradiction it is to say they must be "compact, with well-arched toes." Let the reader who knows what a deep snow is to travel through, drifted here and there into wreaths that occasionally bury our railway trains, imagine a 200lb. St. Bernard, with compact fore feet, with their four well-arched toes, and their hind feet with six—or a dozen, if you like—well-developed toes, the whole feet so large that they support the dog on the snow. Now, what must happen on going down a hill? Evidently, the fore feet being compact, and with them the greatest weight of the animal to bear, would go through the snow as a man would if leaning on a pair of stilts, and the dog must of necessity tumble heels over head, or, as the Scotch have it, "coup the cran."

The argument that extra digits on the hind feet will support the dog on snow is untenable; and whilst that idea may be acceptable to minds that find pleasure in such a rag of superstition as that a particular form of colour-distribution specially consecrates a dog, it is beneath the consideration of a people who have built up the grandest dogs in the world, not by worshipping such trumpery idols of an ill-cultivated fancy, but by careful



attention to the established laws of anatomy and physiology.

Another extraordinary reason has been advanced in favour of growing extra digits, and that is, that it gives a direction or impulse to the growth of bone in general.

It is hardly too much to say that the bulk of English dog-fanciers are "bone mad." There is a perfect craze about bone, so that one can scarcely read a report of a dog show without meeting in almost every other line praise of dogs of every kind and degree for being "great in bone," "immense in bone," or blamed for being "light in bone," or "wanting in bone," and all without the slightest relevancy to the natural requirements of the animal or consistency in his construction. A little reflection ought to convince the unprejudiced that, to divert Nature to the production of a useless incumbrance is to rob necessary parts of the value and result of the mis-directed effort.

Still further to consider the notion that dew-claws, single or double, are the special property of the breed. "There is no doubt," writes "Stonehenge," "that the double dew-claws on the hind legs have in some way been introduced into the strain of dogs used at the two Alpine monasteries, but how, it is now impossible to say." Why should it be thought these dew-claws were introduced? Is it not more reasonable to suppose that at the Monastery, as elsewhere, and in every breed, they appeared accidentally? Any peculiarity once developed, even if a mere sport or accidental occurrence, becomes, to a great extent, the common property of families of animals that live isolated, and



where, in consequence, there is much close interbreeding; and the position of the dogs at the Monasteries lent itself strongly to the fixing, or, rather, to the frequent reproduction, of an accidental appendage, to which the whole of the carnivora are particularly liable. I know of a family of cats that have been for many generations closely bred, and a peculiarity in them of very common occurrence is one blue china eye, such as is common in the marbled Sheepdog. Many readers must know of families of cats where six toes are common; but I have never heard it claimed for the extra digits that they marked a distinct variety, or even that they proved a practical advantage.

In 1878 the question of dew-claws was being warmly discussed in the Press, and I wrote to the late Dr. Darwin on the subject, who replied under date January 22nd, 1878: "All the domesticated vertebratæ are liable to produce, by monstrosity, supernumerary digits. I formerly was inclined to attribute this to reversion to a very remote progenitor, but from reasons assigned in the second edition of my 'Variation under Domestication' I am now very doubtful on this head."

Mr. Arthur Nicols, author of "Notes on the Carnivora," "The Physical History of the Earth," &c., a sound authority on such questions, ridicules the idea of dew-claws being considered special to St. Bernards. He writes to me as follows:—

The St. Bernard Club has proposed a singular standard for adoption by breeders of St. Bernards! What are we to make of it? "Dew-claws, to be of value, must be distinct toes, and form part of the hind feet." "Claws" are here made synonymous with "toes." In what way



can they "form part of the hind feet"—never being on the same plane with the feet? Passing on from this notable example of confusion of ideas, I would ask, Why should the St. Bernard Club (or any other) set up "dew-claws" as objects of attainment by breeders? What are dew-claws? Darwin has conclusively answered the question in his letter to you, which you showed me: "accidental monstrosities." They may, however, have a reversionary character in this sense. All dogs possess normally the five digits of the typical vertebrate *manus* on the forelimb; and all possess four of the digits of the typical vertebrate *pes* on the hind limb, while the fifth member occasionally appears on this limb in all our *domestic* varieties. When this occurs it may be a reversion to the five-digit typical form, not of any proximate ancestor of canine aspect, but of one greatly remote. *Crocodilia*, *Lacertilia*, *Chelonia* and *Batrachia* (more properly *Anoura*) still retain the five-digit plan of hind limb, which was also common to the extinct *Enaliosauria*.

Probably the fifth toe of the genus *Canis* may have been gradually suppressed as it became of little or no importance to the animal; and all sportsmen know how serious an inconvenience it is to every working dog allowed to retain it. It does not appear to be found on any species of wild *Canis*. From time to time I have made inquiry in *Nature* and the *Field*—which, of course, cover wide ground—and at present there is no evidence on the affirmative side. Private inquiry points the same way. Colonel Douglas Hamilton, whose experience of Indian wild species is very considerable, has never noticed "this apparently useless claw." Its appearance, then,



on the domestic dog is wholly accidental, in the sense of being abnormal, and is not a character of the species. This supernumerary appendage has no importance whatever, either functionally or as a character of "breed." It has no bony articulation with the tarso-metatarsus, and cannot be in any way a support to the limb—a mere piece of flabby skin and cartilage with a claw (or two occasionally) at its tip. Yet the St. Bernard Club gravely proposes to set this up as a standard of perfection to which breeders are to bow down if they wish to compete successfully on the show-bench! To a naturalist the idea is monstrous. The fifth (normal) digit on the fore limb is a very different matter. Articulated as it is with the carpo-metacarpus, and actuated by muscle and tendon, we have here an efficient functional representative of the pollex. But to proceed any further in this direction would be, so far as you are concerned, a needless carrying of coals to Newcastle.

All the higher animals exhibit (occasionally) supernumerary structures. Of this class are the *mammæ erraticæ* of the human female (observed once in the inguinal region, a situation proper exclusively to nearly all the lower mammalia), and found to occur even on the *back*. Isidore Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire's work, "*Traité de Tératologie*" (Paris, 1832), is a mine of abnormal structures, into which the St. Bernard Club might with advantage dig before it decrees the perpetuation of the dew-claw.

Probably the commonest form of departure from the normal is in the direction of polydactylism. Supernumerary digits, on either limb, are extremely frequent. Dr. Burt Wilder tabulated, from his own observation, 152



individuals (human). These departures from the normal number—in some cases seven additions to the proper complement—evinced a strong tendency to become inherited, and could, no doubt, be rendered fairly constant if we were allowed to “select” human unions as freely as those of animals under our control.

Have you ever seen a baby show? I have, and was much interested. The mothers could not understand my anxiety to examine the feet of their little ones. I did not expect to find any supernumerary toes here—which the judges would have marked “disqualified,” as a matter of course—but I found and noted many Simian characters. Why should a supernumerary toe disqualify a baby, and qualify a St. Bernard? Supernumerary structures probably never occur in wild animals, at least among mammals, though they are common among our domestic animals. A five-toed race of fowls has lately been established. Mr. Lawson Tait has described a race of polydactyl cats in which the excess digits have become permanently inherited.

Again, Mr. Edward Poulton described and figured in *Nature* (November 1st, 1883), specimens of cats' feet (both fore and hind) on which there were two supplementary toes, fully formed, and furnished with claws, the “accidental monstrosity” having become hereditary. The “dew-claw” is, of course, simply an example of the re-appearance (under domestication) of a digit suppressed in the normal subject, and can, therefore, have no functional importance, much less any “value” as a characteristic of the St. Bernard *per se*. No doubt, ancestral forms of the *Canidae* possessed all five digits on the hind foot. The



horse constitutes an instructive example of the suppression of digits. At present the foot exhibits only one functional toe (the third), with the second and fourth lying on each side, reduced to mere rudiments, known as "splint bones." In the ancestral equine forms, however—*Hipparion*, *Anchitherium*, and *Orohippus*—we find, first (proceeding backwards in the order of time), the splints bearing hoofs, and hanging free from the limb (the "dew-claw" condition); next these digits hoofed, and touching the ground; and at length the digits Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, all hoofed, and used in progression. I suppose that no breeder of horses would be pleased if the splint bones of some thoroughbred colt were found to carry two small *free* hoofs, like those of the ancestral *Hipparion*, or that he would forthwith decree that this ancestral reversion should be raised to the position of an important character, of "value" in determining the standard of purity of breed. This, nevertheless, is precisely the case for the "dew-claw."

So far as I have been able to ascertain by diligent inquiry, supernumerary teeth are, with one exception, unknown. My retriever, Hector, had seven incisors in the upper jaw, all well developed, and perfectly symmetrical. The rest of the set was normal, and very fine, the only notable departure from the ordinary form of the upper jaw being the unusually wide diastema for the reception of the lower canines. The plaster cast which I made exhibits these peculiarities as well as the living subject. There is a great range, then, for the operations of the St. Bernard Club, which need not despair of producing a whole bunch of dew-claws by careful attention to selection. It might, with equal regard to beauty and utility, cultivate



the double nostrils, which were not very uncommon some thirty years ago. My friend George du Maurier was never tired of anathematising the dew-claws of his noble St. Bernard Chang. "They ruined the lines of the legs," he said.

The anterior dew-claw is present in all dogs, the posterior occasionally only. Blaine distinctly refers to the dew-claw as attached to either metacarpal or metatarsal bone, and frequently by a ligament only. Youatt calls dew-claws the supplementary toes above the foot, and Darwin described them as "accidental monstrosities." Chauveau says: "In all the domesticated animals the posterior digits comport themselves exactly like the anterior. The carnivora alone offer a notable difference; in them, in reality, the thumb does not exist, or, rather, it is only represented by the rudimentary metatarsal bone, the vestige of a thumb articulated with the cuneiform. Nevertheless, it frequently occurs that a completely developed thumb is found in the dog; and in this case the rudimentary metatarsal is ordinarily followed by a ligamentous cord, to which is suspended a bony stylet, that represents either the inferior extremity of the metatarsal or the first phalanx."

In the face of all the evidence adduced in proof of the merely accidental nature and practical uselessness of additional posterior toes, I really think St. Bernard breeders should give up this "fad," and utilise the energy it now absorbs for a better purpose.

The following weights, measurements, and other particulars of well-known dogs will, I believe, interest readers. The particulars given of the Rev. J. Cumming Mac-



dona's grand old dog 'Tell—now dead many years—I have copied from "Stonehenge's" first edition of "Dogs of the British Islands," thinking it might be interesting to be able to compare the dimensions of some of our dogs of the day with those of the dead champion.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS OF WELL-KNOWN ST. BERNARDS.

NAME OF DOG AND OWNER.	Age.	Weight.	Height at Shoulder.	Length from Nose to set-on of Tail.	Length of Tail.	Girth of Chest.	Girth of Loin.	Girth of Head.	Girth of Forearm.	Length of Head from Occiput to tip of Nose.	Girth of Muzzle mid- way between Eyes and tip of Nose.
Mr. Arthur C. Armistage's Oscar	4 years	lb.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
Dr. Russell's Mentor	8 months	151	32	50	25	38	31	27	11	13	15
Mr. G. R. Tetley's (late Mr. W. Yuile's) Simplon	6 years	135	29	56	23	35½	29	26	11	12	14
Mr. Sydney W. Smith's Barry	4 years	170	32½	61	—	40	—	—	14	—	—
Dr. Russell's bitch Muren	3 years	150	32½	56	24	43	35½	28½	13½	12	15½
Rev. J. C. Macdona's Tell (dead)	14 months	130	29	53	24	37	31	23	10½	11½	12½
	—	147	30½	84	36	—	22	13	13	—	—

Mr. Stanhope Inglis's *Bruno*: Age, 4 years; height at shoulder, 30in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 51in.; length of tail, 22½in.; girth of chest, 38½in.; girth of loin, 33in.; girth of head, 25½in.; girth of forearm, 12in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12½in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 13in.; colour, orange, tawny, and white.

Mr. L. H. Layland's *Leo*: Age, 2 years and 5 months; weight, 140lb.; height at shoulder, 29in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 52½in.; length of tail, 25in.; girth of chest, 38in.; girth of loin, 32in.; girth of head, 25in.; girth of forearm, 11½in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose,



12½in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 15in.

Mr. J. C. Tinker's *Gresham*: Age, 10½ months; height at shoulder, 31in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 61in.; length of tail, 24in.; girth of chest, 40in.; girth of loin, 35in.; girth of head, 25in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12½in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 15½in.

Mr. J. C. Tinker's bitch *Mab*: Age, 3 years and 8 months; weight, about 128lb.; height at shoulder, 29½in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 53¾in.; length of tail, 26in.; girth of chest, 37½in.; girth of loin, 29½in.; girth of head, 25in.; girth of forearm, 10in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 10¾in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 14¼in.

Prince Albert Solms' rough-coated dog *Courage*: Age, 4 years; weight, 140lb.; height at shoulder, 30½in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 51in.; length of tail, 25in.; girth of chest, 36½in.; girth of loin, 31½in.; girth of head, 25in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 13in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 14½in.

Mr. William Valentine's smooth-coated *Bernard*: Age, 5 years; weight, 120lb.; height at shoulder, 30in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 52in.; length of tail, 23in.; girth of chest, 35in.; girth of loin, 29in.; girth of head, 27in.; girth of forearm, 11in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 14in.

Mr. W. Hart-Chamberlain's *Martigny*: Age, 2 years 7 months; weight, 139lb.; height at shoulder, 30in.; length



from nose to set-on of tail, 56in.; length of tail, 23in.; girth of chest, 37½in.; girth of loin, 30½in.; girth of head, 23½in.; girth of forearm, 10¼in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12¼in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 13in.

Mr. T. C. Emmerson's *Bolckow*: Age, 3 years; weight, 140lb.; height at shoulder, 30½in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 52in.; length of tail, 23in.; girth of chest, 40in.; girth of loin, 29in.; girth of head, 23½in.; girth of arm 1in. above elbow, 12in.; girth of leg 1in. below elbow, 10in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 13in.; colour and markings, orange tawny, black muzzle, white breast and feet.

Mr. Charles Goas' *Marco*: Age, 22 months; weight, 155lb.; height at shoulder, 33in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 57¾in.; length of tail, 24in.; girth of chest, 42½in.; girth of loin, 37in.; girth of head, 26in.; girth of arm 1in. above elbow, 12½in.; girth of leg 1in. below elbow, 11¾in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12¾in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 15in.; colour and markings, orange.

Dr. Russell's *Cadwallader* (never shown): Age, 2 years; weight, 156lb.; height at shoulder, 31in.; length from nose to set-on of tail, 63in.; length of tail, 24in.; girth of chest, 39in.; girth of loin, 32in.; girth of head, 26½in.; girth of forearm, 13in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 12in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose, 15½in.; length of muzzle, 4½in.

Mr. W. J. Sherringham's bitch *Snowdrop*: Age, 12 months; weight, 109lb.; height at shoulder, 29in.; length



from nose to set-on of tail, 48in.; length of tail, 21in.; girth of chest, 37in.; girth of loin, 31in.; girth of head, 20in.; girth of forearm, 10in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The following measurements of puppies will also prove valuable to breeders for comparison:

Mr. S. H. Fox's *Bella*, by Moltke—Snowdon: Age, 5 months and 27 days; weight, 82lb.; height at shoulder,  $26\frac{1}{2}$ in.; length from nose to set-on of tail,  $48\frac{1}{2}$ in.; length of tail,  $20\frac{1}{2}$ in.; girth of chest,  $32\frac{1}{2}$ in.; girth of loin, 27in.; girth of head, 21in.; girth of forearm, 9in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose, 10in.; girth of muzzle midway between eyes and tip of nose,  $11\frac{3}{4}$ in.

The Rev. Grenville F. Hodson's *Haco*: Age, 7 months; height at shoulder, 27in.; length from nose to set-on of tail  $46\frac{1}{2}$ in.; length of tail, 21in.; girth of chest, 34in.; girth of loin, 27in.; girth of head, 21in.; girth of forearm,  $9\frac{1}{2}$ in.; length of head from occiput to tip of nose,  $11\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Mr. G. Watmough Webster's pup by Moltke—Norma: Age, 6 months; weight, 90lb.; height at shoulder,  $25\frac{1}{2}$ in.; length from nose to end of tail, 69in.; girth of chest, 35in.; girth of loin, 30in.; girth of head,  $22\frac{1}{2}$ in.; girth of forearm,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The following are particulars of some celebrities of the present day:—

PLINLIMMON (K.C.S.B. 15,050).

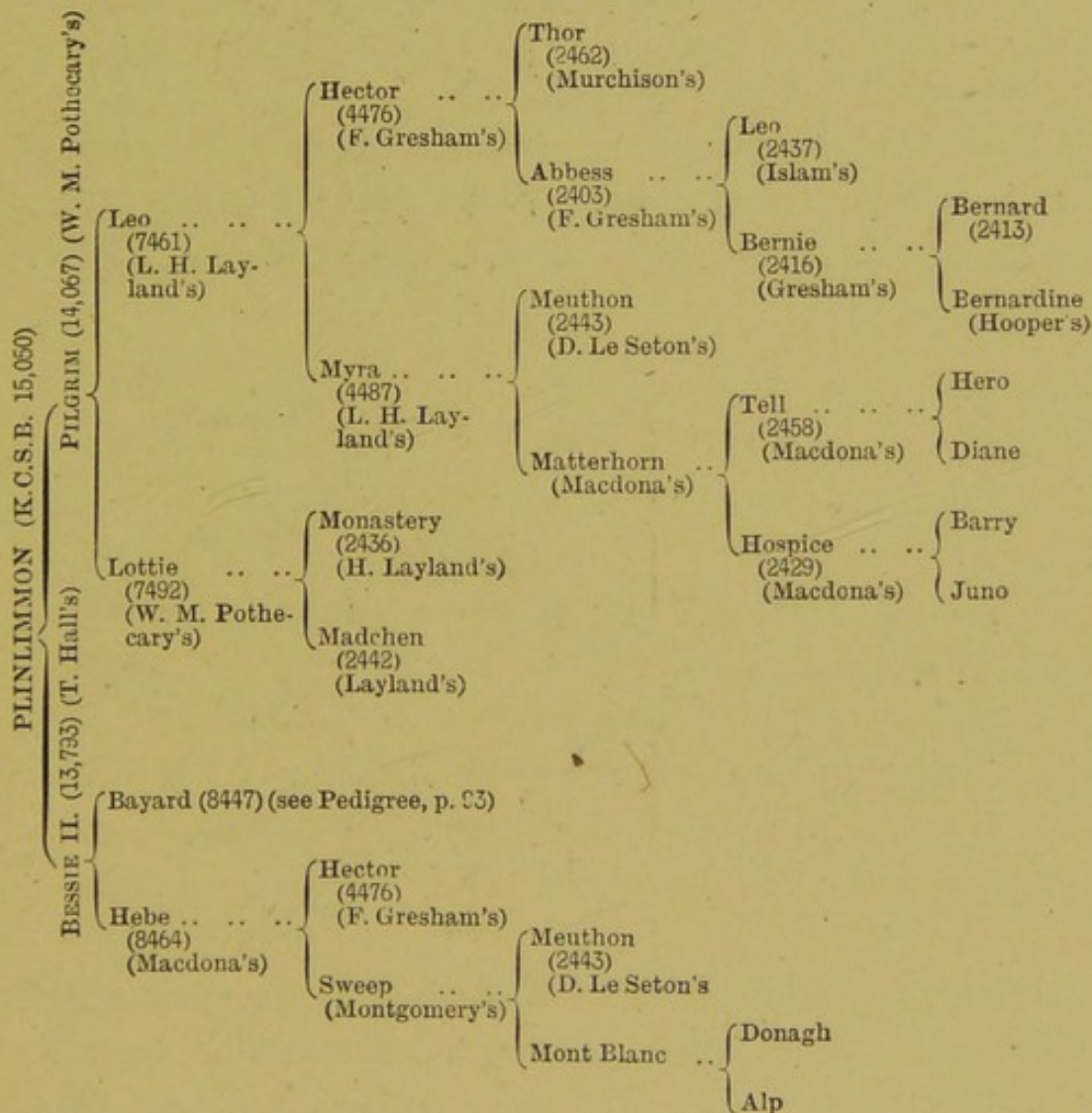
*Date of Whelping*—June 29th, 1883.

*Measurements, &c.*—Height at shoulder,  $34\frac{1}{2}$ in. full; girth



of skull, 28in.; girth of muzzle, 16in.; girth of chest, 44½in.; girth of loin, 38½in.; girth of arm, 13in. Weight, 210lb.

*Pedigree.*—



*Winnings.*—1st (Puppy Class) and Cup for best St. Bernard in the Show, Warwick; 1st and Cup Henley-on-Thames, 1884; 1st, Medal, 100 Guinea Challenge Cup, and other Cups, St. Bernard Club Show, 1884; and 1st, Cup, and Special for best St. Bernard in the Show, Hanley, 1885.



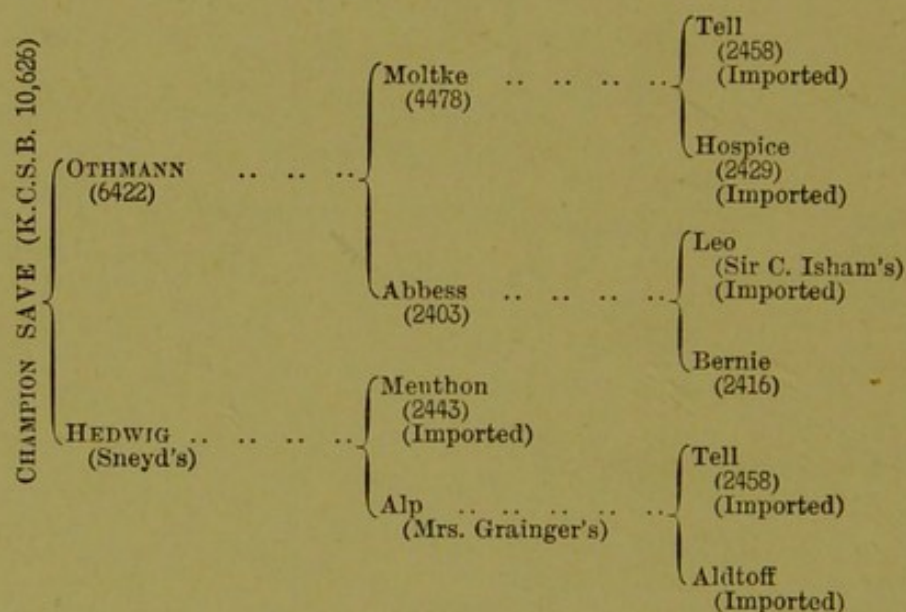
*Colour*.—Rich orange body; broad, white blaze, edged with black; perfect broad, white collar; white chest, legs, and end of tail; black mask.

SAVE (K.C.S.B. 10,626).

*Date of Whelping*.—March, 1879.

*Measurements*.—Height at shoulder, 33½in. full; girth of skull, 28in.; girth of muzzle, 16in.; girth of chest, 44¼in.; girth of loin, 38½in.; girth of arm, 13in. Weight, 190lb.

*Pedigree*.—



*Winnings*.—1st and Cups: Retford, Thorne, Chesterfield, Doncaster, Winchester, Hertford, Kegworth, Buxton; Prizes: Crystal Palace, Alexandra Palace, Margate, Farnworth, Edinbro', Greenock, Liverpool, &c.; Champion Prizes: St. Bernard Club Show, Buxton, Crystal Palace, and Hanley.

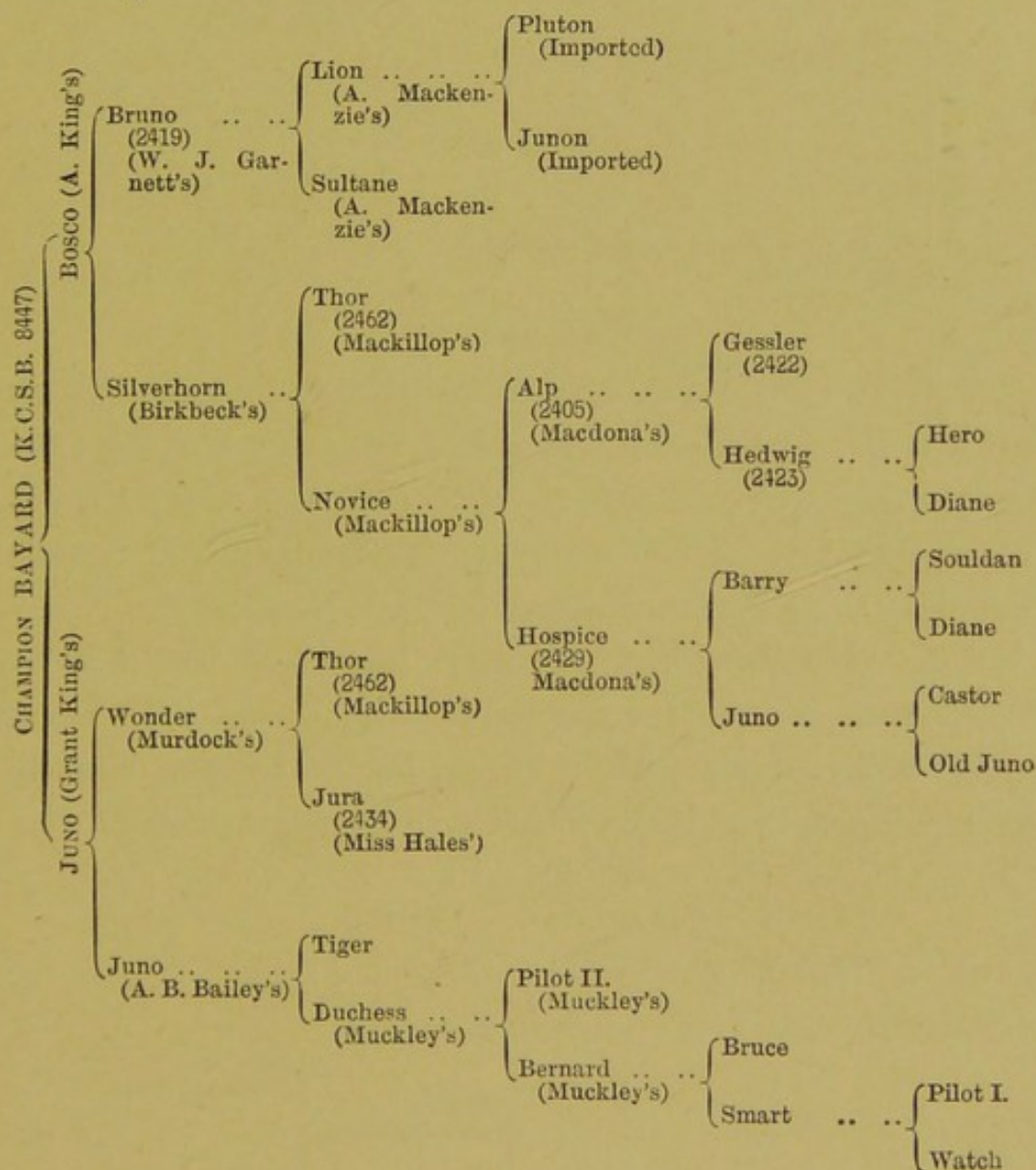
*Colour*.—Very rich orange tawny or bright chesnut, with perfect white markings; the ears and blaze of face beautifully shaded with black.



BAYARD (K.C.S.B. 8447).

*Date of Whelping.*—April 11th, 1877.

*Pedigree.*—

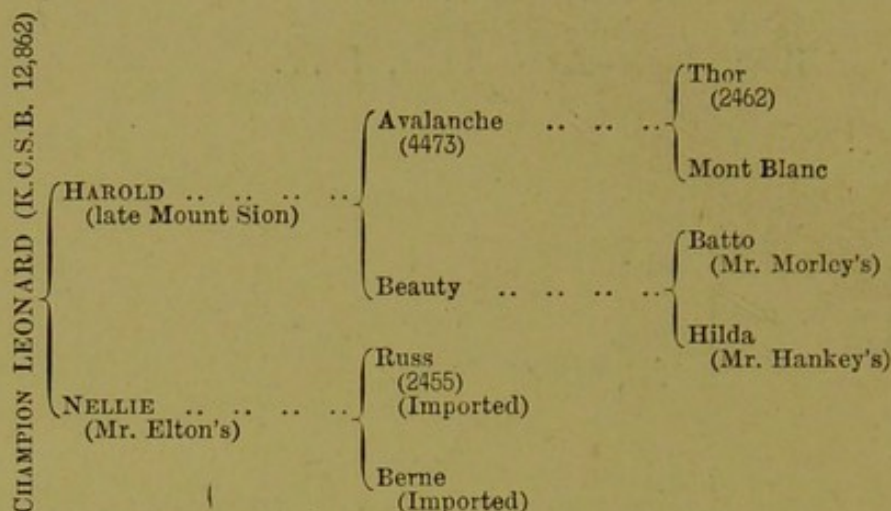


LEONARD (K.C.S.B. 12,862).

*Date of Whelping.*—June 28th, 1880.

*Measurements, &c.*—Height at shoulder, 34in.; girth of skull, 27½in.; girth of muzzle, 16in.; girth of chest, 45in.; girth of loin, 39½in.; girth of arm, 12½in. Weight, 175lb.



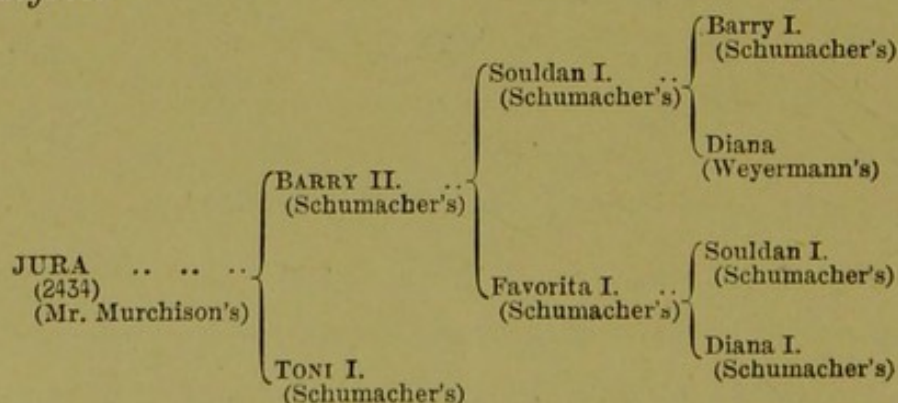
*Pedigree.*—

*Winnings.*—1st Prize, Medal, and 100 Guinea Challenge Cup, St. Bernard Club Show, 1882; 1st Prize and Cup, St. Bernard Club Show, 1883; 1st Prize and Cup, Crystal Palace, January, 1884; 1st Prize, Medal, and 100 Guinea Challenge Cup, Crystal Palace, July, 1884, &c.

*Colour.*—Head perfectly marked; blaze and ears heavily shaded with black; muzzle beautifully flecked with black spots; body white, with fawn or lemon patches slightly approaching a brindle, having black hairs intermixed.

JURA (K.C.S.B. 2434).

*Date of Whelping.*—1871.

*Pedigree.*—

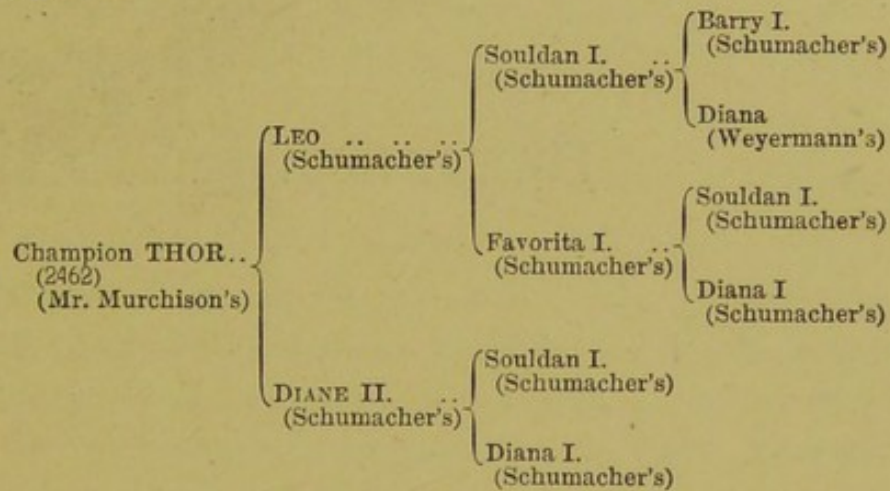
*Colour.*—White, with red badges.



THOR (K.C.S.B. 2462).

*Date of Whelping.*—January, 1870.

*Pedigree.*—



*Colour*.—Rich red; white blaze; white collar; white chest and legs, and tip of tail.



## BREEDING.

*Points Generally sought to be Produced—An Impossibility—Mating Rough and Smooth Coated Dogs—General Rules for Breeding—A Common Error—Like Producing Like—Throwing Back—Importance of Pedigree—Breeding for Colour and Size—Mr. Boulton's Views—Œstrum: Symptoms; Treatment of Mammæ; a Reprehensible Practice—Is it Possible to Predetermine the Sex?—Proportion of Males to Females—In-and-In Breeding: Sir J. Sebright's Experiments—Selection of Sire—Stud Dogs and their Services: Number of Visits Required—Advantages of Public Registration—Impregnation—Superfœtation—Antecedent Impressions—Somerville's Advice—Mental Impressions: Mr. Blaine's Views on—Age at which to Breed—Best Season for Breeding—Summary—Axioms for Breeders—The Bitch in Pup—Parturition—Treatment of the Suckling Bitch and of Pups in the Nest—Foster Mothers.*

THE St. Bernard breeders of the present day seek to produce size and symmetry, together with certain special points which have already been given in the several standards of excellence set up, and which I have already quoted at considerable length. Some of these cannot be gained except at a loss of others. Take, for instance, dew-claws—single, double, or treble: it is almost impos-



sible to cultivate these without a loss of symmetry and freedom of action.

I think, if St. Bernard breeders will thoughtfully consider the question, they must admit that the great majority of them are trying to attain the impossible in the production of a dog possessing at once the properties of a *beau ideal* St. Bernard of the Hospice, together with fancy points, some of which are altogether incompatible with working qualities.

There is nothing to be considered in the breeding of St. Bernards that is not, I think, fairly met by the observations which follow on the general laws of breeding. There is one point I may specially refer to, however, and that is, the mating of the rough- and the smooth-coated. At one time this was necessary, but it is now no longer so, because of the great increase of good and well-bred dogs of both varieties. This is, of course, specially a question for the fancier and exhibitor; and as it is certain that, the longer the two varieties are kept separate in breeding, the more distinct will the difference be, it is not unimportant.

#### GENERAL RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN BREEDING.

I shall not attempt to deal with the subject of breeding in all its aspects. There are many questions connected with it still unsettled, and, however interesting the discussion of these, this is not the place for it, even were I capable of doing it justice. I shall endeavour to confine myself to, and make as clear and explicit as possible, laws to be observed and lines to be followed by all who would



breed dogs successfully. That there are such laws enunciated by physiologists, and proved correct by experience, no one can doubt, and the want of attention to them is a fruitful source of disappointment.

One of the very commonest errors of the inexperienced is to expect that the union of two good-looking dogs must of necessity produce handsome pups; another common and still more fatal mistake is to accept prize-winnings, however great, as sufficient credentials of a good sire; and a third mistake is to look for good pups from a worthless, ill-bred bitch, however good the dog she has been bred to.

*Like Produces Like.*—That *like produces like* is a good maxim for breeders to remember, if it be correctly valued, which it can be only when taken in conjunction with other weighty considerations. The laws of heredity play an important part, and cannot be left out of the account. But with dog breeders, as a rule, too little attention has been paid to it.

*Throwing Back.*—Everybody who observes at all knows how common it is to see a child who bears a much stronger resemblance to an uncle, aunt, cousin, or other collateral, than to the parents; or in direct line the child may inherit the features or peculiarities of one of the grandfathers or grandmothers. And so it is in the lower animals; and this tendency to throw back is seen to go still further in some instances of crossing when the artificial distinctions produced by domestication and selection in breeding are thrown down, and an effort is made by Nature to reproduce an animal in, if not its original, at least in a long past, form. This, in the dog, is shown in the gaunt form seen



in many mongrels, and in its most pronounced form often assumes that of his congener the wolf. I do not say that the crossing of any two varieties of our domestic dog will produce one or more pups with a wolfish semblance, but that, if allowed to breed promiscuously, unmistakable traits of the wild dog will be developed.

We have here, then, two rules to be observed in breeding, which at first sight appear to be antagonistic, but are really not so. Like breeds like, but as each sire and dam have also had a sire and dam that may have possessed very distinctive characteristics, the proneness to throw back is merely a proof and confirmation that like does produce its like, although a generation may have been skipped in the development of a special feature or set of features.

As it is not only the physical, but the mental peculiarities also, that are reproduced, and also tendencies to certain diseases, inquiry into all such matters cannot be too minute. It is, however, very seldom that such facts can be ascertained, except where the strain has been kept and bred in one kennel for generations.

*Importance of Pedigree.*—The foregoing shows the vast importance of pedigree, and on both sides this should be studied, and the prevailing family characteristics carefully considered. The kennel chronicles, calendars, stud books, and systems of registration, public and private, now accessible, are of the greatest help to the breeder, and will become more so year by year, although the best of them are far from being so useful as they might be made. Thus, in the Kennel Club Stud Book many particulars are omitted that breeders would be glad to know, such as, in some breeds, size, colour, &c.



*Breeding for Colour, Breeding for Size*, or with any other such specific object, must be undertaken on established physiological laws, and fully taking into account that there are always complex influences at work, all of which have to be considered and allowed for; that *like breeds like* is true only in a limited sense, for inherited characteristics on both sides, even such as are latent in the individual, assert their influence and reappear. On this subject there is a pamphlet by Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier and Mr. W. W. Boulton, M.R.C.S., called "Breeding for Colour, and the Physiology of Breeding," which is well worth the careful perusal of every breeder. Both of these gentlemen are well known as scientists and most successful practical breeders of various domestic animals, and both have succeeded in establishing new varieties. Mr. Boulton's Black Spaniels possessed such a distinctive family character that they could be recognised at a glance. As a result of Mr. Boulton's great experience, he has come to a conclusion of much importance, namely, "that the sire influences the progeny principally in colour and outer contour, and the dam in constitution and all vital characteristics and peculiarities of temperament, instinct, and family or hereditary stamp, quality, or feature." Whether that view receive complete endorsement from other breeders or not, no one of any practical experience will undervalue the importance of breeding only, or with rare exceptions, from pure-bred dams. It would be impossible to establish a kennel of even character and high quality from brood bitches of different and of mixed blood.

In some varieties, size is a great desideratum, and in breeding for size the general family character must be



looked at, for that generally rules, even when one of the immediate parents is small. I have known many instances of bitches, very small specimens of their breed, becoming the dams of dogs of unusually large proportions, and such bitches have come of a good-sized stock. Rearing has, however, much to do with the development of the young in the growing stage of life.

*Estrum, or Heat of Bitches.*—The desire to reproduce is not constant in the dog, but occurs at periods varying in individuals even of the same variety, in some as often as every six months; but whether six, seven, or eight months, the period is generally kept to with tolerable regularity, so that an observant breeder who keeps a kennel record can tell pretty nearly when his bitches will be in season; and it is very important to keep such record, to prevent misalliances.

It is not necessary to describe in detail the symptoms of heat: there is general disturbance and excitement of the whole system. It is, I believe, in many instances, possible to tell by the eye of the dog; certainly the expression is altered, as well as the manners and action. Often, with the careless owner, the fact first becomes evident to him by the nuisance of a pack of strange dogs about the place, making night hideous by occasional prolonged sounds, between a howl and a whine; but before that he should have been aware of a change in his dog, and have kept her up. On examination, the external organs of generation are seen to be enlarged and vascular, and for some days, about the middle of the time, there is bleeding from the vulva; when this has stopped is by most breeders considered the most favourable time for her to visit the



selected mate. The period of heat lasts about three weeks.

Thirst is an accompaniment of heat, and the bitch should have access to water constantly. If it is not intended that she should breed, care must be taken to keep her locked up, for many show great cunning at this time, and will not miss a chance to steal away and seek mates for themselves. If not intended to breed, it is absolutely necessary she should have cooling medicine—a dose of ordinary black draught answers well, and may be given twice a week; the food, too, should now be light, and the proportion of vegetables increased and flesh meat decreased. This course will often prevent fits, which, in those predisposed to them, are apt to appear at this time.

When the bitch has been kept up, there will, in all probability, at the end of the usual period of gestation—nine weeks—be a secretion of milk. This should be drawn off, or the accumulation in the teats and other lactiferous glands will produce indurations, ending in tumours. The mammæ should in such cases be bathed with warm water, and afterwards rubbed with camphorated oil; or, if there is much heat and swelling, add to the camphorated oil one-third part of brandy and the same proportion of spirit of hartshorn. At the same time recourse should be had to doses of black draught twice a week and a light diet.

It is a practice too general to keep bitches year after year and prevent them from breeding. This is strongly to be condemned. It appears to me an unjustifiable interference with Nature, and it is certain that the consequences to the animal are seriously detrimental. Not only are they from this cause liable to suffer from scirrhus tumours,



but it begets a plethoric state of body and partial deposits of fat around the ovaries and elsewhere, that interferes with the healthy functional operations of important parts, and leads often to acute disease, and, where life is prolonged, it is a burden to the dog and a nuisance to her owner.

Breeding is a natural, healthy, and necessary thing. It is specially required by highly-fed dogs, living luxuriously, as a means of using up their excess stock of material, and therefore all bitches should be allowed to breed, at least occasionally.

*Predetermining the Sex.*—There are breeders of animals and birds who believe it possible to regulate the proportion of the sexes produced.

I presume readers to be acquainted with the theory held by many observant breeders, that if the bitch is served at the early period of her heat the progeny will be mostly bitches; and on the contrary, if near the end of the œstrum, the majority of the puppies will be dogs. No one person's experience, however extensive, can be taken to settle this question, which is of very great practical importance, not only in respect to dogs, but other stock. Yet it is on such limited experience that, so far as I have seen, all such theories are built. Many years ago, Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier tabulated the births of Greyhounds recorded in *The Field* newspaper during a series of years. This was done for the use of the late Professor Darwin, and the figures, which are given in his "Descent of Man," show an excess of 10 per cent. of males over females. I have, since that date, taken from the Produce Register of the *Kennel Chronicle* the births of over 10,000 puppies of all



breeds, and found the difference in the proportion of the sexes to be in favour of the male, to the extent of a fraction over 4 per cent.

When those who claim the power to regulate the proportion of sex in their kennels can prove results in favour of their theory by such an accumulation of instances, they will have what they now lack—solid grounds for asking consideration for their pretensions.

If the Kennel Club, which is in the best of positions to do so, were to adopt a system of careful registration, they would have in a few years an accumulation of facts from which deductions could be safely made; and the same means might be used to elucidate other points which, at present, although often spoken of as facts, are at least doubtful and obscure.

*In-and-In Breeding.*—This is a phase of the subject which has given rise to much discussion, opinions in favour of and against the practice being pretty equally divided. From my own observation, and lessons gathered from the experience of others, I am of opinion that close consanguineous breeding is the most powerful means we have to determine character and establish type; but if continued without a resort to the renovating influence of blood from a removed, although, it may be, a collateral line, the result will be loss of stamina and the production of a too nervous temperament.

In-and-in breeding, in its strictest sense, is, of course, mating dogs from the same sire and dam, and continuing that course. Sir John Sebright, a high authority on such matters, carried out a series of experiments in this direction, with the result that his dogs became weak, small,



and weedy; and other experimentalists agree with him. In-and-in breeding is not, however, to be entirely neglected, for, as already observed, when it is required to fix and determine a desirable mental characteristic or physical trait possessed in common by brother and sister of the same litter, to breed them together is the most certain way to ensure its perpetuation; and in this way only, I believe, can type be established. And to keep up the physique of the breed without destroying its distinctive features, *breeding in the line*—that is, from animals of collateral descent—should be resorted to, and not from dogs of entirely different blood.

*Selection of Sire.*—This must be made after consideration of the various phases of the subject of breeding, and the several influences at work affecting the character of the future progeny.

In the present day, the rage with inexperienced breeders is for dogs that have taken prizes. Except for the purpose of giving a fictitious value to the puppies, prize-winnings have no value in a stud dog. On the contrary, a dog that has been much shown, and, in consequence, constantly undergoing preparations—being, as it were, wound up to the highest tension his system will bear—is not so likely to get good stock as another equally good dog of the same strain that has been allowed to live more naturally.

*Stud Dogs and their Services.*—Having selected and engaged the services of a stud dog, unless the owner is a man in whom you can place implicit confidence, either go with the bitch yourself, or send a confidential agent. The mere “dog fancier” is too often a man who considers his gains only, and does not hesitate to substitute one dog for



another when to do so will ensure him a fee; and when the pups disappoint expectations the blame is laid on the dam. The true dog-lover, being really interested in dogs and their improvement for their own sake, is above the temptation to practise such a fraud, and if his dog is temporarily disabled from any cause will, of course, honestly say so. In like manner, having higher objects than gain, he will not only let it be known that approved bitches only will be allowed to visit his dog, but will exercise a wise discretion in carrying that resolve out, rigidly excluding all worthless animals, which, put to the best dogs, it is hopeless to expect to bring forth anything but weeds, and thereby deteriorate the breed.

An acknowledgment of service, in writing, should always be given by the owner of the stud dog; it is to the interest of both parties that this should be done. And I strongly advocate public registration of births of puppies. If this were generally done, it would prevent many deceptions, or be the means of exposing them when practised. The forms adopted for the Produce Register of the *Kennel Chronicle* are very convenient, and can be used for signature of the stud dog owner at the time of service, and by the breeder when the time comes to register the puppies. Such public registration need not supersede, but be practised in addition to, the private kennel register, and the advantage is, that it is always open to the public, which is important when dogs are changing hands in after years.

*Impregnation.*—On this subject Blaine observes that in some cases it takes place at the first connection, at others not until the second, third, or fourth, and states that in



one instance he had decided proofs that impregnation did not ensue until the seventh warding; and he recommended, to ensure prolific intercourse, that the dogs should be left together for some days, adding that this course is specially likely to be necessary in the case of delicate and pampered animals.

I think it may be stated as the general practice of those who place their stud dogs for hire at the service of the public, to allow two visits, at an interval of a day or two. It is also a common occurrence that the animals are perfect strangers to each other, and are never together except during the necessary time. Probably these facts, taken together, supply a sounder reason in accounting for the large percentage of disappointments owners of brood bitches meet with than—as is done—by loosely referring to the season as the cause. I confess I do not know how the phrase, and the belief it expresses, “This has been a bad breeding season,” originated, but it is very common, and appears to me to be baseless if it implies that the meteorological conditions of the seasons influence impregnation and the prolificacy of the bitch.

As opposed to such an opinion, in support of which I have never heard a reason advanced, I am rather disposed to credit these frequent disappointments to ignoring, or, at least, not fully complying with, the laws and conditions under which Nature has ordained that reproduction in the dog shall take place. That one or two visits only should in all cases be held as sufficient seems to be contradicted by facts, however convenient it may be to owners of stud dogs, who, of course, have an eye to fees, and naturally wish to utilise to the fullest the fee-earner.



It is, too, a common practice with some kennel men to interfere a great deal too much. In some cases this is made necessary by the stud dog being kept in an unnatural state of fatness; and this, and the want of sufficient healthy exercise, makes him lethargic, and more or less unfit. This is particularly so with large dogs, and is the frequent cause of disappointment to breeders. The dog—no matter of what breed he may be—requires no lifting up or other assistance if in a fit state to procreate.

*Superfoetation.*—The bitch, having a compound uterus, is capable of impregnation by two or more dogs during the same heat, and will produce in one litter pups clearly distinguishable as the produce of different sires. The appearance of these uterine brothers and sisters in the litter of a bitch that had been put to a valued dog of her own breed is, of course, most annoying, and in all cases must be the result of another having had access to her. Frequently this arises from the carelessness of servants, and it is always safest to keep the bitch under lock and key, for with the slightest chance given she will steal away in search of a mate of her own selection.

*Antecedent Impressions.*—It is one of the most strange and remarkable facts, as it is one of the least understood in connection with breeding, that the union of a bitch for the first time with a dog by which she conceives frequently exerts an influence on subsequent litters; or, as my own observations lead me to think, on individual pups, but not all, in subsequent litters. Instances of this must have come under the notice of most breeders, and the most careful and observant have from their experience recorded instances in proof of it, so that it is now an accepted fact.



This shows the urgent necessity, especially with young bitches, of acting on Somerville's advice:—

Watch o'er the bitches with a cautious eye,  
And separate such as are going to be proud.

If this is not done, an undesirable union will almost certainly be the result, and the value of the bitch for stock greatly reduced.

In such a case many breeders would at once put the strayed bitch down, or discard her from their kennels; but as it is not absolutely certain to follow in every such instance that subsequent litters will be affected, and, as before stated, I do not think that in such case all pups in any subsequent litter would be so affected, I should not, if the bitch was much valued for brood purposes, go so far, but keep her for future use and see the result. From enlarged personal observation and inquiry since I wrote the above, I am disposed to think that in many instances no effect of first impregnation can be traced in subsequent litters, and, when it is seen, it is only in one or two pups. That there is a possibility of such undesirable results is, however, a sufficient reason for the inculcation of care on the person who has the management of the bitch.

*Mental Impressions.*—Perhaps still more curious and inexplicable is the startling fact that the mental impression made on the mind of a bitch by a dog she has been denied sexual intercourse with affects most sensibly the progeny resulting from a sire of a totally different form and colour. On this subject I cannot do better than quote at length from such a high authority as Delabere Blaine, who had the distinguished honour of being called



by his contemporaries "the father of canine pathology." Mr. Blaine says:

"Superfoetation is apt to be confounded with, or its phenomena are sometimes accounted for by, another process, still more curious and inexplicable, but which is wholly dependent on the mother—where imprintings which have been received by her mind previous to her sexual intercourse are conveyed to the germs within her, so as to stamp one or more of them with characteristic traits of resemblance to the dog from which the impression was taken, although of a totally different breed from the real father of the progeny. In superfoetation, on the contrary, the size, form, &c., of the additional progeny all fully betoken their origin. In the instances of sympathetic deviation, the form, size, and character of the whelps are principally the mother's, but the colour is more often the father's. It would appear that this mental impression, which is, perhaps, usually raised at some period of œstrum, always recurs at that period, and is so interwoven with the organisation even, so as to become a stamp or mould for some, if not all, of her future progeny, the existence of which curious anomaly in the reproductive or breeding system is confirmed by acts of not unfrequent occurrence. I had a Pug bitch whose constant companion was a small and almost white Spaniel dog of Lord Rivers's breed, of which she was very fond. When it became necessary to separate her, on account of her heat, from this dog, and to confine her with one of her own kind, she pined excessively, and, notwithstanding her situation, it was some time before she would admit of the attentions of the Pug dog placed with her. At length, however, she was warded,



impregnation followed, and at the usual period she brought forth five Pug puppies, one of which was perfectly white, and, although rather more slender than the others, was nevertheless a genuine Pug. The Spaniel was soon afterwards given away, but the impression remained, for at two subsequent litters (which were all she had afterwards) she again presented me with a white Pug pup, which the fanciers know to be a very rare occurrence."

I have not met with an instance such as the above in my own experience, but cases almost identical have been told me as coming within the experience of friends. Mr. James Pratt, who has been so successful a breeder of Skye Terriers, informs me that one of his bitches produced a pure white Skye under similar conditions to those already referred to; and I could multiply such, but that must suffice on the subject of results from mental impressions.

From the foregoing statements, read together, it will be seen that even very close intimacy between a bitch during œstrum and a dog she fancies may influence the progeny, although the dog has not warded her; further, that if a second dog gains access to her at any time during heat, the probabilities are strong that superfoetation, or a second conception, will take place, resulting in two distinct sets of pups, half-brothers or sisters to each other; and also that excessive pain, terror, or other strong emotions, may affect the unborn pups.

*Age at which to Breed.*—House dogs and others leading a very artificial life often have the functions of reproduction developed at an early age. I had a Terrier that, from inattention to the fact that she was in heat, was not



secluded, and who was the mother of four pups before she was nine months old. As a rule, the smaller breeds mature earlier, and are in season at an earlier age, than the larger breeds, and in all breeds there are individual differences in this respect; but most bitches are in season once before they have attained their full size, and they should in such case be invariably put by. It must be evident to all that, whilst her own frame is still in process of being built up and matured, the bitch is not in the best position to nurture whelps.

During the first œstrum which appears after the bitch is full grown, if the season of the year is suitable, she may be bred from if in perfect health; if she is not, breeding is better postponed.

It should also be known, too, that the dog selected is in health and free from mange or other skin affection of a contagious nature; also, that on neither side is there hereditary disease, which, although not shown in the dogs themselves, is likely to be developed in their offspring.

Although œstrum does in many cases come on twice a year, the breeding and rearing of two litters a year, or even of three in two years, is too exhausting on the system of any dog. No bitch should be allowed to breed oftener than once a year.

*Best Season for Breeding.*—Although pups are born at all seasons, they are not always reared, and late autumn and winter ones are often rickety; and from my own experience, and that of many friends, I believe they rarely ever possess the amount of vitality of spring and early summer pups.

The spring is Nature's great reproductive season; winter



the natural time of rest from, and preparation for, the process.

In the spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast,  
In the spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest.

And, in plain prose, in the spring only does the dog undomesticated breed. Not only is it, therefore, the time most natural, but I believe, as a rule, the strongest litters are then thrown; and there is the obvious and very great advantage that the progeny have before them the genial influences of summer in which to grow and prepare to do battle with the numerous ills of puppyhood.

*Summary.*—If you aspire to be a breeder, in contradistinction to a person who has dogs that breed, before forming an alliance between two dogs consider the whole subject as I have endeavoured to explain it, with all other information bearing on it available to you; and having—as you must have to be a breeder—a clear and definite object for your attainment, weigh the various influences at work and their probable effect in forwarding or retarding that object, and act accordingly.

The following, bearing on the physiology of breeding, may, at least by the inexperienced breeder, be safely accepted as axioms, and acted upon until such time, should it ever arrive, as by extensive experience and careful observation he finds one or more of them to be wrong. They represent the result of experiment and observation, and, as accepted laws by our best breeders, should carry weight with the tyro.

“Like breeds Like:” but this must be considered in conjunction with other laws and influences at work.



“Breeding Back,” or the law of Atavism, often asserts itself unexpectedly, and suggests the necessity of a careful inspection of pedigrees.

“In-and-in Breeding” is useful as a means of establishing and confirming type, but if persevered in to excess produces loss of physique and excessive nervousness.

“Superfoetation and Antecedent Impressions.”—A bitch is capable of having two sets of pups by different sires in one litter. The sire of her first litter may give an impress observable in pups in subsequent litters, and even strong mental impressions, such as that produced by the bitch being enamoured of a dog denied connection with her, sometimes influence the form and colour of pups the produce of another dog.

Breed from fully-developed and healthy animals, and in the spring or early summer only.

*The Bitch in Pup.*—It is important that the pregnant bitch be properly cared for, and kept in good health, otherwise she cannot be expected to produce strong, healthy pups, or to be in a state to nourish them well before and after birth, until such time as they can feed independent of her.

Immediately on the return of the bitch from visiting a strange kennel, it is a good practice to have her thoroughly washed and brushed, and her kennel, which should have been thoroughly cleansed in her absence, supplied with fresh bedding, and the floors, &c., sprinkled with a disinfectant; the object is to prevent the introduction of disease or vermin, and it at the same time proves a comfort to the bitch.

Throughout the whole period of pregnancy grooming



should be practised regularly, and close attention given to the skin, with a view to preventing the growth of parasites, and for the purpose of at once checking any eruption that may be observed. Exercise should be continued until the last, but after the first few weeks no hard, exhaustive work should be done, nor violent exercise, such as racing or jumping, allowed; and during the last week, a gentle walk two or three times a day will be quite sufficient. The bitch should be kept in good condition, but not fat or fleshy, for that not only interferes with parturition, but is apt to prevent the secretion of milk, and is likely to produce or aggravate milk fever.

Bitches in pup should at all times have access to clean water, as some are, when in that condition, unusually thirsty. Many suffer from sickness when in pup, and when the sickness is excessive should have lime-water in sweet milk two or three times a day, a wineglassful being a proper quantity at one time for a large dog such as a St. Bernard. The food for the last four or five days should be sloppy but nutritious, such as broth thickened with stale bread or biscuit, and a little cooked meat.

Where a number of dogs are kept, the bitch in whelp should be separated from the rest for the last week, as she then becomes restless, and is anxious, looking out for a place she approves in which to deposit her young. A place should be selected and prepared for the bitch, for if left to herself she will choose some out-of-the-way, inaccessible hole or corner, where she cannot be approached or assistance given to her should it be required, or the pups—about which the owner is sure to be curious—examined. Let it be a sheltered place—under cover, of course—with



a board in front, not so high that she will have to jump over it, and possibly strain herself, but sufficiently so to add to the retirement of the nest and keep the bedding from being dragged out. It should be on a board floor, and soft, fresh hay is the best bedding. Let there be plenty of room, and the arrangements such that there is perfectly free access and unincumbered action for owner or attendant should it be necessary to interfere.

In order to be fully prepared for the "coming event," breeders should keep a record of the visits of their bitches, that they may know when, if a bitch proves pregnant, she may be expected to whelp. As an aid to this and other kennel matters, dog-owners will find the "Kennel Diary"\* of the greatest service. In it is given a table, with double columns, one showing the date of visit, the other the day the pups are due, calculating sixty-three days as the period of gestation, which is in the very large majority of cases correct. Having this knowledge before him, the owner has the line of treatment indicated, as that must vary as time proceeds. For the first two or three weeks no alteration whatever in diet, exercise, or work is needed, except such increase as the bitch shows a natural desire for, which, if she is going on satisfactorily, is sure to follow.

Breeders of little experience usually exhibit much curiosity as to the prospects of an increase in their kennels. It is not easy to tell whether the bitch is in pup before the fourth week has passed; by that time the teats begin to enlarge, and there is a ridge-like swelling between them; from that time forward the flanks begin to fill out, and

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\* Published by L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, London.



the belly becomes round, until about the seventh week, when it falls considerably, becoming pendulous, and as the pups become due inclines backward.

I have for some time adopted the plan of giving a dose of worm medicine about the second or third week of pregnancy, and I think it is beneficial, even if the bitch is free from worms; the vermifuge and cooling medicine given following it do no harm, but good, and if, as is so often the case, these parasites are present, will lessen the chances of the pups being born with the germs in them, as they so often are, and having the worms developed whilst they are still in the nest. So far this practice has been with me only experimental; but as I think it has had good results, and cannot do any harm if a safe vermifuge is administered, I recommend it to be tried by breeders. I give a dose of Spratts Patent Cure for Worms at the end of the second week, and if worms are expelled I repeat the dose in four or five days.

*Parturition.*—Healthy bitches in fair condition very rarely require any help or interference, and, in fact, the more they are left to themselves, and the quieter they are kept, the better. In very difficult and protracted cases, which exhaust the animal, doses of *liquor ergota*—a fluid preparation of ergot of rye—administered in a little water every half hour, is often of great service in accelerating the births, the dose for a St. Bernard being forty to fifty drops. If the bitch is very much exhausted, a small quantity of brandy in a little gruel may be given. In wrong presentations and cases of deformity it is always best to seek the assistance of a qualified veterinary surgeon. At all events, never interfere too soon in any case



of prolonged or difficult parturition, and never let a pretentious fellow, ignorant of the anatomy of the animal, meddle, and use force, as such persons are apt to do.

*Treatment of the Suckling Bitch.*—For the first few days the food should consist of strong broth, bread and milk, oatmeal porridge and milk, and such like food; but meat in quantity is better withheld, and food should be given slightly warm. From the first, however, well-boiled paunch, being easy of digestion and assimilation, may be given, and one or two meals of boiled bullock's liver are beneficial, acting mildly on the bowels.

On the day after pupping she should be enticed out or taken out for a short time, that she may empty herself, and she should then be offered food; and each day she should be kept a little longer from the pups, as the exercise taken is necessary and beneficial to her, and increases her milk. She will, as the pups grow, require more food, which should be given oftener, and contain a larger proportion of meat; but no sudden change to a meat diet should be made, or it will be likely, confined as she is, to cause surfeit, and not improbably even more serious consequences.

A little fresh hay should be added to the nest occasionally; and when the puppies have got their eyes open, advantage should be taken of the dam being out at exercise to change the bed entirely, cleaning the place thoroughly, and sprinkling with a little Sanitas or Condyl's Fluid, properly diluted.

If one or more of the teats appear to be blind, or to have got dammed up, the whole udder should be freely bathed with warm water daily, or twice a day, and then



well rubbed with camphorated oil or marsh mallow ointment.

When the puppies are the result of a *mésalliance*, or from other causes it is not desirable to rear them, that wish should be sacrificed in humanity to the poor mother. The maternal instincts in the dog are remarkably strong, and it is a most cruel thing to rob her of her puppies, so that at least one or two should always be left for her to nurse. Another reason for this is, that with no puppies to draw the milk from her she runs great risk of milk fever and the formation of tumours in the teats. Nowadays, however, there are always plenty of pure bred puppies it is desired to rear, and whose owners are glad of the services of a foster-mother; and if these are substituted for her own, her attentions and affections are soon transferred to the adopted ones, and no harm done.

*Treatment of Pups in the Nest.*—I am often consulted as to treatment of pups in the nest when they are suffering from various ailments, but I think it foolish to force medicine down the throats of puppies at that age.

In cases of purging, the finger, smeared with milk which has been thickened with prepared chalk, may be placed in the pup's mouth, when the mixture will probably be swallowed, and tend to check the diarrhœa. Sometimes this is brought on by the pups being kept too close and warm. Whatever may ail the pups at that early age, it is better to give the mother a mild aperient, and vary her diet, than to physic the pups.

When the pups begin to crawl about, it is a good plan, where it can be done, to have alongside the nest a boarded floor, such as an old door or some such thing, on which is



nailed a bit of old carpet or sacking. The pups, getting a good foothold on this, can creep about easily.

*Foster-mothers.*—It is not an uncommon idea that the foster-mother affects the mental qualities and temperament of the pups, but there is no ground for it: the milk of the foster-mother and of the dam, if they are both healthy, will answer the same to chemical analysis. The after-education the pup receives will affect the dog's temper, manners, and ability for his special work, but the milk that nourishes him affects his physical development only.

When a foster-mother has to be selected, see that she is in perfect health, and quite clean, free from vermin, &c.; and she should not be old, for then the milk is rarely so good in quality or sufficient in quantity. Smooth-coated bitches are preferable for this purpose.

To get a bitch to take to the aliens a little patience and tact must be used. If she is kept away from her own pups for a time, until the udder is full of milk, she will be more likely to let the strange pup suck, as it will relieve her; or she may be cheated into accepting the strangers by putting them, one at a time, whilst she is kept away, in the nest with her own, and in this way gradually removing her own and substituting the others. In any case, watch her behaviour to the stranger: if she licks it, all is well; but if she treats it as an intruder, she should be muzzled and held, and the pups removed to a warm nest until they again require sustenance. A few such removals will prove sufficient; but this is rarely needed if plenty of time is taken, and patience and gentleness exercised.

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## REARING PUPPIES.

*Weaning—Feeding—Quantity of Food—Number of Meals per diem—Regularity in Feeding—Dog Biscuits—Kinds of Animal Food—Dainty Feeders—Kennels for Puppies—Cleanliness—Exercise—Medicines for Increasing Growth—Hindrances to Growth.*

Good puppies, according to the modern estimate of such, cannot be reared without considerable trouble and expense. This applies strongly to the rearing of St. Bernards, for with these, as with other breeds where size is much valued, the consumption of food is great, and must be of good quality. The greatest difficulties, however, that confront well-to-do breeders are such as are common to the fanciers of every variety. Although, in one sense, rearing begins with the treatment of the bitch in whelp—as on her treatment the health and strength of the pups must very much depend—the time when the mother casts her suckled progeny off is usually looked on as the beginning of the troubles of the rearer—and many of the latter he brings on himself.

*Weaning.*—When the dam is strong, and has a sufficiency of milk, the pups should not be weaned before six weeks. All of them should for some time have been able to lap



well, and even to eat meat and milk, thick porridge, broth, &c.; but it is a mistake to give very young pups meat at once on being weaned. Flesh-food should be gradually adopted, a little only, torn into thin shreds, being first given, for the pups have not the power of digesting it except in minute quantities. The custom which has grown up of late years of forcing food on puppies, and by every means inducing them to take other food than the milk of the dam, is one of those mistakes which bring their own punishment. Breeders would, I am confident, find it more profitable, and better in every way, to let the bitch wean the pups at her own time, feeding her well, and the puppies also, as soon as they lap of their own accord, than to take the pups away at a month old, and give them solid food, which the stomach is as yet unable to properly digest. Generally, before the age of three weeks puppies will push their noses into their mother's dish, and, if the food is fluid, begin to lap. This may be encouraged with advantage, but there should be no spooning.

*Feeding Puppies.*—The food must be chosen and regulated according to age and circumstances. Great and sudden changes in diet should be avoided. The milk of the bitch and of the cow do not differ very much, and cows' milk is one of the most valuable foods we can give to newly-weaned puppies, and, with scalded bread, well-boiled oatmeal, and meat dog-biscuits of a reliable make (first thoroughly softened), may form two of the half-dozen meals a day that puppies from six weeks up to twelve weeks old should have. During that period the other four meals should consist of the same solid materials, with



broth taking the place of the milk, and at first some of the meat, gradually increasing till all of it used in making the broth is added. Variation in diet is excellent—indeed, almost a necessity of health. In addition to all this, give new milk to drink, if possible, even if in substitution for one of the meals. Indeed, a litter of seven or eight St. Bernards would do very well with the whole of the milk of one cow. It is commonly believed that cows' milk breeds worms in dogs; but that is a mere superstition, which I have long done my best to kill, and I hope it is dying, if not dead. As the puppies advance, they require more food, but less frequently given.

I may here remark on three important points, often overlooked, and sometimes misunderstood—namely, quantity of food, number of meals per diem, and regularity in feeding.

*Quantity of Food.*—Scientists have told us that a dog should be allowed food daily from one-sixteenth to one-twelfth of his own weight. Manifestly, the quantity must be regulated by the quality, and other considerations; and my experience is that, for all practical purposes, the theory, however scientific, may be pushed aside. In feeding puppies, or older dogs, common sense must be a factor, and in the absence of that, my advice is to give up dog-keeping, and try something where that essential of everyday life is not required. I find it the best plan, or at least one very satisfactory in its results, always to give as long as "Oliver asks for more," and to stop supplies and remove the dish when the nose shows that the stomach is becoming fastidious.

*Number of Meals per diem.*—I have already said six from



six weeks to three months old. As the puppy gets older the number must be reduced, till at a year old three are given. No hard-and-fast line can be laid down, and in this matter the object of the feeder must to some extent decide. Where rapid growth and ultimate great size is sought for Nature must be assisted by every device, and one of these is to give the animal as much suitable material for the building up of his frame as his assimilative powers can utilise. Those who would do this well must intelligently watch how the machine is working; and against possible congestion of the organic organs the mechanical must be put in force, in the form of increased exercise.

*Regularity in Feeding.*—My own experience, confirmed by that of others I have asked to test it is—regularity in feeding is of the greatest importance. It saves food; it ensures that all food taken is made the most of; and it has a considerable influence in preventing indulgence in the habit of picking up objectionable things through the gnawings of hunger, which must often occur through irregular feeding. I have satisfied myself, by repeated experiments, that puppies grow quicker on the same food when fed with punctuality at fixed hours, than when they have irregular meals.

On the general subject of feeding very extreme views have been expressed. A few years ago, Dr. Barlow, of Boston, U.S.A., paid a visit to this country, and preached his dogma that, because the dog belongs to the *Carnivora* he must eat nothing but flesh. Dog-feeding is not a subject for theoretical argument in these pages; accepting the general laws of nutrition, we largely guide ourselves by results of experience. We English people can “lick creation”



in dog-breeding and feeding, and we have always fed partly on farinaceous food. One of our ancient writers did, indeed, advise for a hound in training "a beefsteak fried in brandy," but even he did not omit the spiced bread. A flesh diet must not, however, be neglected by those who desire to grow large and strongly muscular dogs. As the young St. Bernard grows up towards full "doghood," the mutton, beef, or sound horseflesh must be given in ever-increasing proportion and quantity. No matter how much, if he can do with it—to give more is certain to produce derangement of important organs, with, as the least of consequent evils, skin disease, which is perhaps the most troublesome of dog diseases, and one which, like the others, retards progress towards the goal to which its existence is a proof we were making too much haste.

*Dog Biscuits.*—Prepared food for dogs has become a great trade since Mr. Spratt, of Holborn, introduced the fibrine biscuits about twenty years ago. The same biscuit, but with considerable improvements, both in its ingredients and manufacture, is made by Spratts Patent, Limited; and now there are numerous makes of dog biscuits of more or less excellence. All dogs, and especially puppies, like a change of food occasionally, and, consequently, a new food is taken by them at first with avidity. I have found this to be especially the case with fish biscuits, which are for a time eaten greedily. But these biscuits do not build up the frame, nor are they even so satisfying to the appetite as the fibrine cakes; and as the result of very carefully carried out experiments with puppies of my own and other people's, of various breeds, I have come to



the conclusion that fish biscuits are much better suited to the rearing of ducks than of dogs.

In recommending a considerable proportion of meat for advanced puppies, I may say that I find it unnecessary to go beyond the proportion of one part fresh meat to two parts of fibrine biscuits by weight. Even that may prove too much if the fact is not borne in mind that exercise is the opposite side of the balance to keep the machinery of the system at a just equilibrium; and if Indolence sits on the safety-valve, there will be, not a blow-up, but a breakdown, and, most probably, in plain truth, and without parable, an eruption, for over-feeding and under-working are common causes of skin diseases.

*Kinds of Animal Food.*—Nearly all the waste, or comparatively waste, parts known as “butchers’ offal” is suitable for dogs, but that consisting of the softer tissue, such as paunches, &c., is palpably unequal in value as a food to the more solid flesh. The price, however, compensates, and more can be given; and such parts as the windpipe, &c., consisting of gristle, are, when cooked, an excellent and nutritive food for puppies. Horseflesh has to be given with more caution than other meat, even when part of a perfectly healthy carcase; and great care has to be exercised to guard against the flesh of glandered horses, or such as had been constantly given mineral poisons in the form of condition powders, &c. In sheep-farming districts, the carcasses of sheep that have died of braxy can often be obtained, and this forms an excellent dog-food.

*Dainty Feeders.*—In a number of puppies it is common to find one which, although apparently not ailing, is yet



very dainty, or what is called a "bad feeder." This may only be temporary, and arise from some obscure cause. Such dogs must be tempted with tit-bits of whatever food they prefer; and it often happens, that by a little coaxing to eat, and giving them a little and often, such puppies can be kept pretty well up with their fellows in growth. When changing the teeth, puppies often cannot manage their usual hard biscuit, or gnaw a bone, because of the gums being in such a tender state, and for the time being they should have soft food only.

*Kennels for Puppies.*—Where many dogs are kept, a separate kennel for puppies is an absolute necessity, to prevent injuries in the excitement of play. A puppy-kennel should have a larger run than is necessary in one for adult dogs, and should be so situated and constructed as to admit fresh air and sunshine; these, necessary at all stages of life, are indispensable to the healthy growth of puppies.

*Cleanliness.*—The most scrupulous cleanliness should be observed in the kennel, and the puppy must be kept clean in body; but to be constantly washing puppies is a mistake. Puppies that have sufficient freedom and access to grass-land will, if healthy, keep themselves clean, and at the most need no more grooming than a good rubbing down with a hard swab of straw, and an occasional dressing with a dandy brush.

*Exercise.*—If the value of a sufficiency of exercise of the right sort was better appreciated, and given puppies with regularity, there would be fewer dogs with weak loins and cow-hocks. I know, from facts constantly coming before me, that many who rear dogs have no idea of the



amount of exercise puppies need to insure healthy growth; and as I have already said, the better the feeding the harder should be the work. Where more than one puppy is being reared, and they have plenty of room to play, they will exercise themselves well; but even under such favourable circumstances they should be regularly taken out for runs of length suited to their ages, to develop the muscles, keep up vigorous health, and also that they may at the same time be taught good behaviour. When one puppy only is being reared, the necessity for regularity of enforced exercise is still greater.

*Medicines for Increasing Growth.*—When puppies are weak in the leg-joints, and show a tendency to rickets, lime-water may be added to the milk given to them, and, at the same time, syrup of the phosphates, called “Chemical Food,” may be given; but healthy pups are better without medicine, however “simple” it may be considered. The practice has grown, of late years, of giving cod-liver oil largely, with a view to make the dogs very large. It very often has the effect of making puppies fat and soft, with the consequence that the body is too heavy for the young, soft bones and but partially formed joints to bear the weight, and then we have “knuckling over,” “cow-hocks,” and, in fact, cripples. My advice is to keep the cod-liver oil and all other medicines for invalids, for the healthy puppy needs none of them.

*Hindrances to Growth.*—The greatest hindrances to growth are irregular and injudicious feeding, and faults in regard to exercise. Other causes there are, which we cannot altogether prevent. During the teething process, which goes on till the puppy is about seven months old,



the difficulties of eruption, particularly of some of the molars, causes some puppies to suffer a good deal, and go off their feed. Parasites are also trying to the dog, and, as they prevent him from getting proper rest, hinder his growth. As to external parasites, if there is a louse, flea, or tick on a puppy for twenty-four hours, it is a disgrace to the kennelman, who must be either ignorant or idle, or both. Internal parasites are more difficult to deal with, for, as regards some of them, we have yet to learn their life-history, and until we have done so, all treatment for their prevention must be empirical.

The several forms of skin disease, which cause so much disquiet to puppies, preventing rest and hindering growth, are mostly due to faults in feeding deranging the work of the assimilative organs, and are in our own hands to prevent. Intestinal worms also cause skin disease and hinder growth, and distemper and other ailments peculiar to puppyhood interfere to spoil our success and destroy our hopes of rearing grandly-developed dogs. The treatment of these matters, however, cannot be properly dealt with here, and I refer readers to my book on "*Diseases of Dogs*"\* for my views on such subjects.

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\* Published by L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, London, W.C.



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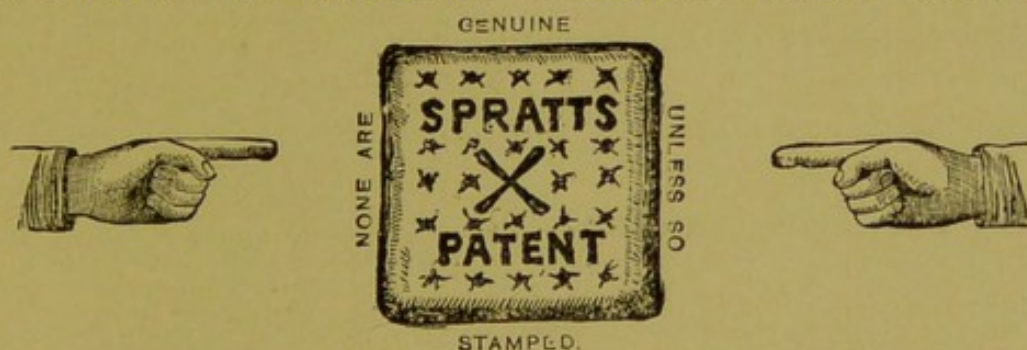
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*Mange the result of a vegetable parasite.*

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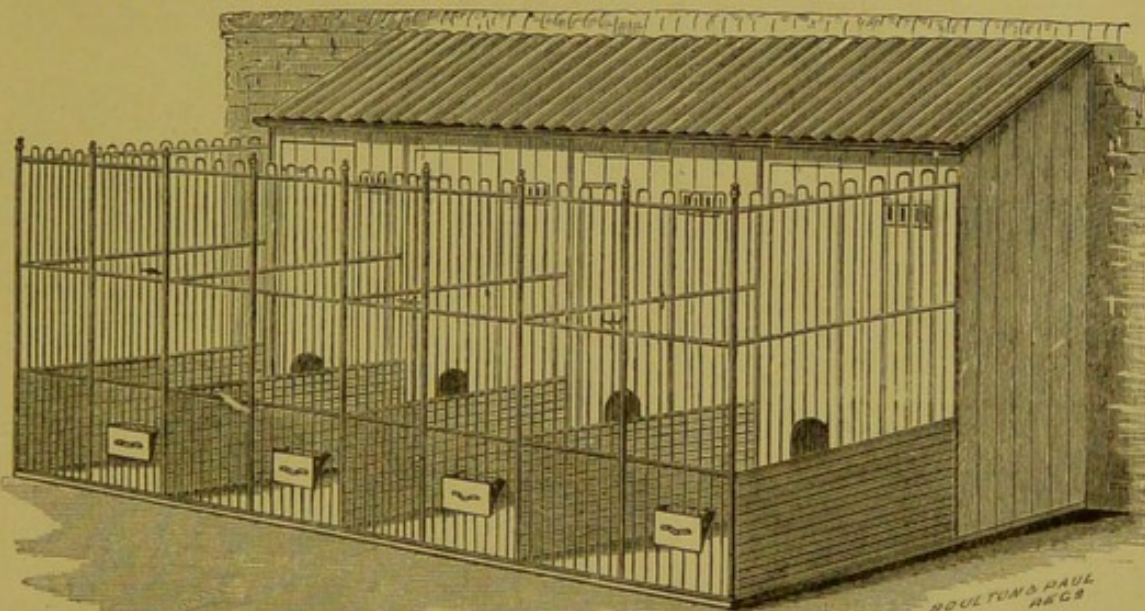
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