

should measure 16 inches from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail, and a hen half an inch less.—*Extract, Journal of Horticulture.*

THE BIGGEST PIE ON RECORD was made at Lowther Castle, in Westmoreland (England), in the year 1762, and was sent up as a present to the King. It contained 2 geese, 4 ducks, 2 turkeys, 1 wild fowl, 1 wild goose, 6 wild ducks, 3 teal, 2 starlings, 12 partridges, 15 woodcocks, 2 guinea fowls, 3 snipes, 6 plovers, 3 water-hens, 6 widgeons, 1 curlew, 46 yellow-hammers, 15 sparrows, 2 chaffinches, 2 larks, 3 thrushes, 1 field-fare, 6 pigeons, 4 blackbirds, 20 rabbits, 1 leg of veal, half a ham, 3 bushels of flour, and 2 stone of butter. The whole pie weighed 22 stone. This must have been the original pie commemorated in the nursery rhyme—

“When the pie was opened  
The guests began to sing:  
‘Is not this a dainty dish  
To set before the King?’”

### THE POINTER DOG.

The breed of Pointers, says a writer on the canine species, as now generally to be met with, is called “the English,” distinguished by lightness of limb, fineness of coat, and rattishness of tail. Fifteen or twenty years ago this style of dog was seldom seen; but, in place of it, you had a much heavier animal—heavy limbs, heavy head, deep-flew jaws, long falling ears. Which of these breeds was the best ’tis hard to say, but for America I certainly should prefer the old, heavy English Pointer. Too much, I think, has been sacrificed to lightness, rendering him too fine for long and continued exertion, too susceptible to cold and wet, too tender-skinned to bear contact with briars and thorns, in fact, too highly bred. Not that for a moment I am going to admit that American Pointers are too highly bred; far from it; for there is hardly one that, if his or her pedigree be carefully traced up, will not be found to have some admixture of blood very far from the Pointer in its veins. Now this mongrel breeding will not end well, no matter how an odd cross may succeed, and the plan to be adopted is never to breed except from the most perfect and best bitches, always having in view the mak-

ing of strong, well-formed, tractable dogs, bearing in mind that the bitches take after the dog, and the dog pups after the dam, that temper, ill-condition, and most bad qualities are just as inherent in some breeds as good qualities are in others. Here, then, to begin with, you have a difficult problem to solve; for, in addition to the defects of your own animal, you have to make yourself acquainted with those of the one you purpose putting to it. The characteristics of a well-bred Pointer may be summed up as follows: The head should be broad at top, long and tapering, the poll rising to a point; his nose open and large; his ears tolerably long, slightly erect, and falling between the neck and jaw-bone, slightly pointed at the tip; eyes clear and bright; neck and head set on straight; his chest should be broad and deep—the contrary clearly shows want of speed and stamina; legs and arms strong, muscular and straight; elbows well in; feet small and hard; body not over long, and well ribbed up—if not, he will be weak, and incapable of doing a day’s work; loins broad at top, but thin downwards; hind-quarters broad at top, but thin downwards; hind legs strong and large; tail long, fine and tapering; hair short, sleek, and close. Here you have the pure English Pointer, and as this is the best type of the dog we shall not attempt to describe the Spanish one, which is not by any means equal to the English; and is, moreover, so quarrelsome that he cannot be kennelled with other dogs. Good dogs are of any colours, but the most favourite ones are liver and white, white and fawn, pure black, and pure liver. The two first, however, are better adapted for this country, being more easily seen.

### OUR LETTER BOX.

ROYAL JAVA FOWLS.—(*C. W. Ford, Auburn, N. Y.*), says:—“In reply to an enquiry in your journal about the origin of these fowl, I may say that they came from the Isle of Java, and hence their name. I have bred them for the last ten years, and consider them one of the best and handsomest breed of fowls of their variety. They breed true to colour and feather. They are of a metallic green lustre, single combed. Breast bright red and prominent, neck carried well over the body, legs short, of a yellow tinge and slightly feathered, flesh bright yellow.