

and also entirely white Setters are sometimes to be found, but these colors are not so fashionable as those previously mentioned.

The Setter derives its name from the position it used to take when setting game. The Pointer stands well up on its legs when at point, but Setters took up a crouching position. In the present day Setters more often than not stand to their game. There are certain rules which a well-trained brace of dogs always observe. They never leave the field in which they are at work until their master passes out. They quarter the ground regularly, taking care to keep the wind as much as possible in their favor, and when one makes a point the other also points in the same direction, which is called backing, and as the dog with the point draws up to the birds, the other stealthily follows. Should the birds rise out of distance or any be shot they remain perfectly motionless until ordered to move on.

Deformity, Weakness, and Inactivity in Mastiffs.

The prevalence of deformity of the limbs, flaccidity of the muscles, and general inactivity of habit in our modern English Mastiffs, are defects that cannot be denied, and there is some reason to fear that they are on the increase; and the subject demands our most serious consideration.

Our American cousins have, to use a sporting expression, "spotted" these imperfections, and mentioned them in no measured terms of ridicule and contempt, and, although they have not exactly assigned the true causes, I believe, unless alteration is effected, our English Mastiffs are not unlikely to lose much of the high prestige they have so long maintained.

Like Demetrius, I may say, Sirs, I perceive our craft is in danger, our Mastiffs are likely to become despised.

Yet I do not think that the fault lies in the breed or in any particular strain or strains, nor that the practice of breeding from animals closely related is in itself necessarily conducive to it to any great extent. I believe rather that the real fault lies with ourselves. It is our manner of rearing puppies; in fact, overforcing them while quite young, with the mistaken idea of producing great size thereby; instead of which, however, we more often enlarge their livers and injure their digestive organs, causing a rickety tendency in the limbs, an anasarous condition of the flesh, and serious state of the blood. And the breed that even fifteen years ago was hard and firm in muscle, and sufficiently active to jump a five-barred gate or gallop after anyone on horseback, is now best represented by animals with weak and distorted limbs and puffy obese bodies, that on the smallest neglect or adverse circumstances are very prone to atrophy and chronic lameness.

We are constantly treated with information from modern breeders of extraordinary weights attained by their puppies at an early age, and these said puppies being in a general way the offspring of only medium-sized parents. But what is the cause, and the result?

Mr. Cramped-quarters Walk-little, having forced his Cripple at four or five months old to weigh more than he should in hard, healthy, growing condition at nearly double the age, writes to the papers to report his folly, or rather with a view to obtain a gratuitous advertisement, perhaps, that he is a Mastiff breeder, and therefore has surplus Cripples at times that he is glad to dispose of? There seems a method in some men's madness.

Mr. Little-room Cat-hams, reading this, and having forced his Monsterflesh to still greater weight, does not like to be outdone, and therefore reports his specimen as a sort of hitherto unheard-of prodigy. Thus the evil is encouraged; but what is the result of this forcing? The majority of these over-fed animals (instead of growing on to fourteen or eighteen months, as really very large dogs take to develop) stop growing at about ten months old, and instead of making, as their early weight warrants, 180lb. dogs (like the 187lb. Druid, who was sufficiently powerful in the limbs to drag a pump after him, that it took the united strength of three porters to lift and carry back to where he moved it from); they grow up short-bodied, weak-hocked, deformed animals, weighing some 140lb. to 150lb. perhaps, when fed up to such obesity that their weak limbs can hardly move their ungainly bodies for any distance.

In a general way, how few prematurely heavy forced puppies have made really large dogs?

How few now have the bone of the older noted specimens? How frequently may we read complaints of this sort:—"I have a *valuable* (?) Mastiff puppy, four months old; he was *perfectly* straight when I bought him at about seven weeks old, but now he has given way in all his legs, especially the fore-legs, so that he can scarcely walk. He eats well, and has plenty of good food, etc. What is the best treatment I can follow?" The answer may easily be anticipated. "Your puppy has rickets. Give phosphate of lime, lime-water, etc."

I have observed the rickets usually appear in puppies from two to three months old, but sometimes the disease does not appear until a later date. The first symptoms are a tumid or enlarged belly, with the articular epiphysis enlarged and spongy, and the bones large, but soft. As the dog grows older, the ribs become depressed, and hollowness of the back appears. The muscles are attenuated, and curvature of the spine frequently presents itself.

The generic characters are low stature, twisted limbs, shortness of body, flesh flabby and tabid. The appetite seldom fails, but the digestion is manifestly