

or less force, according to the pace he goes at. The more he resists the more he punishes himself. At last he finds that by being still he is better off. Generally he lies down. At all events he stands still. This is just what you desire. Without your intervention he punishes himself, and learns a lesson of great value, without attributing it to you, and consequently fearing you, to wit;—that he is not to have his own way always. After repeating this lesson a few times, you may take him to the peg, and “down” or “charge” as you like the term best, close to the peg in the proper position. Move away, but if he stirs one single inch, check him by the cord and drag him back, crying “down” or “charge.” For the future we shall use the word “down.” You can practice which you please. Leave him again, checking him when he moves, or letting him do it for himself when he gets to the end of it, always bringing him, however, back to the peg, jerking the cord with more or less severity. Do this for eight or ten times, and he will not stir. You must now walk quite out of sight, round him, run at him, in fact do anything you can to make him move, when if he moves he must be checked as before, until he is perfectly steady. It is essential in this system of breaking that this first lesson should be so effectually taught that nothing shall induce the dog to move, and one quarter of an hour will generally effect this. In all probability, the dog will be much cowed by this treatment. Go up to him, pat him, lift him up, caress him, and take him home for that day. Half an hour per day for each dog will soon get over a long list of them. There is no more severe, and yet no more gentle method of breaking than this; more or less run being put into the check, according to the nature of the beast. This course never fails to daunt the most resolute nor yet to cow the most timid after the first or second attempt, for it is essential in the first instance that they should obey. The next day, and for many days, you commence as at first. Peg him down &c., and after he does properly, lift him up and walk him about, holding on to the cord still pegged in the ground. Suddenly cry “Down!” accompanying the word with a check more or less severe, as requisite, till he goes down. Leave him as before. If he don’t move, go up to him, pat him—

a young dog ought never to move while breaking until he is touched—lift him up, if necessary, lead him about, again cry “down,” and check him until he falls instantly at the word. This will do for lesson No. 2. The next day commence at the beginning, following up with lesson 2, making him steady at each. Before proceeding to the next step, release the one end of the cord from the peg, take it in your hand, cry “down”; if he goes down, well; if not, check him, pat him, loose the end of the cord in the hand, let him run about, occasionally crying “down,” sometimes when he is close at hand, at other times further off, visiting any disobedience with a check, until he will drop at the word anywhere immediately. At these times his lessons may last for an hour twice a day. He will get steady more quickly and better.

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## Our Letter Box.

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### POUTER PIGEONS—FEEDING—LICE.

*W. G. B. Salem, Mass.*, writes:—I have heard that feeding oats to Pouters will diminish the size of the crop. Do you think it is the better way to have regular times for feeding pigeons, or to have a feeding hopper of some kind to which they can go at pleasure? If the latter, can you give a plan? Will lice cause sickness or death in old pigeons?—Grain of all kinds is natural food for pigeons. We do not therefore see how oats could diminish the size of the crop; we would not, however, confine the pigeon to one kind of grain. Pouters frequently gorge themselves with too much food. Care should be taken that they do not get too much at a time. We are decidedly opposed to a feeding trough and unlimited supply of grain, it offers an additional inducement to gorging. There are four distinct species of lice found upon pigeons, the most common and by far the most remarkable being the one known as the feather louse of the fancier. It is not regarded by pigeon fanciers as injurious; but it must derive its sustenance from the body of the bird. Our correspondent does not specify the kind of lice to which he alludes.