

## THE CLUMBER SPANIEL.

BY CLUMBER.

The Clumber Spaniel is decidedly the aristocrat of the Spaniel family, in comparison to whom his modern black brother of the benches is a mere parvenu and the Irish Water Spaniel as an unkempt keme to a polished gentleman. The grave and somewhat weird Sussex cannot compare with him in dignity of demeanour, and the busy little Cocker, neat and taking though he be, is commonplace in comparison with the Clumber, whose manners, solemn, slow and almost dull, are yet stamped with that repose which the least imaginative may easily conceive rests on the proud consciousness of his long descent. *Hugh Dalziel in "British Dogs."*

The Clumber, some contend, is the original land Spaniel; and their contention is certainly borne out by momentous evidence. Edmund de Langley in his book "The Maister of Grime" speaks of the best "Spaynel" (Spaniel) for hawking as being a dog with a large head and body, and in colour "white and tawne" (lemon orange), with not too "jough" (rough) a coat and a "rough" (feathered) tail. He further goes on to say that this breed is so named "for ye nature of hem cometh from Spayne; not withstanding yat their ben many in other cuntries." This description would seem to fit the modern Clumber exactly.

About two hundred years ago the founders of the present race were imported into England by the then reigning Duke of Newcastle from the kennels of a Duc de Novailles in France. The name is derived from a seat of the Dukes of Newcastle in Nottinghamshire, Clumber House, where they were taken on their arrival from France and where they

have since been domiciled, until of late years, in the strictest seclusion.

They are rarely met with in America and strangely so, for not only are they beautiful and attractive dogs, but also workmen of the highest order of merit. In the water they are almost as much at home as on the land, consequently they make the most excellent retrievers of dead and wounded wild-fowl. Their light colour is certainly against them for this work, as it readily reveals their presence to the sharp-eyed duck; but for covert shooting it is an advantage, as they are so easily to be seen by the gun that the chances of an accident are minimized. Not only is this Spaniel possessed of the keenest of scent; but his range is so close that, being perfectly mute when questing, the sportsman is enabled to get well up to the birds before they flush.

The breed is rapidly gaining in popularity, and soon it is hoped, they will receive the support in this country that is only their due.

Standard for judging Clumber Spaniels as drawn up by the writer and adopted by the American Kennel Club:

*Description.*—General appearance and size.—General appearance, a long, low, heavy-looking dog, of a very thoughtful expression, betokening great intelligence. Should have the appearance of great power; sedate in all movements, but not clumsy. Weight of dogs averaging between 55 and 65 lbs.; bitches from 35 to 50 lbs. Value 10.

*Head.*—Head large and massive in all its dimensions; round above eyes, flat on the top, with a furrow running from between the eyes up the centre. A marked stop and large occipital protuberance. Jaw long, broad and deep. Lips of upper jaw overhung. Muzzle not square; but at the same time powerful-looking. Nostrils large, open and flesh-coloured, sometimes cherry-coloured. Value 15.

*Eyes.*—Eyes, large, soft, deep-set and showing haw. Hazel in colour, not too pale, with dignified and intelligent expression. Value 5.

*Ears.*—Ears long and broad at the top, turned over on the front edge; vine-shaped; close to the head; set on low and feathered only on the front edge, and there but slightly. Hair short and silky, without the slightest approach to wave or curl. Value 10.

*Neck and Shoulders.*—Neck long, thick and powerful, free from dewlap, with a large ruff; shoulders immensely strong and muscular, giving a heavy appearance in front. Value 15.

*Body and Quarters.*—Body very long and low, well ribbed up and long in the coupling. Chest of great depth volume. Loin powerful and not too much arched. Back long, broad and straight, free from droop or bow. Length an important characteristic; the nearer the dog is in length to being two and one-half times his height at shoulder the better. Quarters shapely and very muscular, neither drooping nor stilty. Value 20.

*Legs and Feet.*—Forelegs short, straight and immensely heavy in bone. Well in at elbow. Hind-legs heavy in bone; but not as heavy as fore-legs. No feather below hocks; but thick hair on back of leg, just above foot. Feet large, compact and plentifully filled with hair between toes. Value 10.

*Coat and Feather.*—Coat silky and straight, not too long, extremely dense; feather long and abundant. Value 10.

*Colour and Markings.*—Colours, lemon and white and orange and white. Fewer markings on body the better. Perfection of marking: solid lemon or orange ears, evenly marked head and eyes, muzzle and legs ticked. Value 5.

*Stern.*—Stern set on level and carried low.