

KENNEL DEPARTMENT

Conducted by D. Taylor

The annual general meeting of the Montreal Canine Association was called for Tuesday, 27th November, in the Natural History Rooms, University street. There was quite a large number of shareholders present, and Mr. Joseph Reid occupied the chair. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed, after which the chairman announced that through the serious illness of the treasurer, Mr. Jos. A. Laurin, a statement of the financial affairs of the Association could not be obtained at the present time. A motion to adjourn until such time as the statement was forthcoming (the meeting to be at the call of the President) was adopted. No other business was transacted.

English doggy men are at present greatly exercised over the proper division of dogs into sporting and non-sporting classes, the incident of special prizes for the two classes having been offered at a recent show being sufficient to again rouse public opinion on the subject. Beyond question the subject is a difficult one and it lies with the Kennel Club, which is the recognized parliament in kennel affairs, to give an official pronouncement in the matter, a duty which it has been accused of shirking, either through dread of arriving at a solution satisfactory to the majority of breeders or through a general disinclination to tackle such a vexed question without being under pressure to do so by being brought to adjudicate upon the entry of a certain breed of dog in both classes. Our Dogs, of which it may be said there is probably no better authority on all matters relating to the Kennel in Great Britain, lays down the principle, which seems to us a perfectly sound one, that should operate in a separation of the various breeds and varieties of breeds and classification of them into the two divisions, which is not whether such breeds are, or are not, actually used for sport, but whether such breeds have been evolved for purposes of legitimate sport either in Great Britain or in the country to which they belong. A great many people would question the inclusion of fox terriers in the sporting division, from the fact that they are more frequently held by dwellers in cities and towns as pets and companions, yet their usefulness in the hunting field and in other forms of sport is admitted and by consent of the best authorities they are universally placed in the sporting column. Yet have they not a title, from the reason stated above, to enter and compete in the non-sporting division? That is the question which British fanciers would like to see settled definitely with this as with other breeds, in particular a near relation of the fox terrier—the black and tan terrier, which in the majority of cases has all the qualities of a sporting dog and will hunt and kill vermin, and are as game as any fox terrier to be found. This breed is invariably reckoned amongst non-sporting dogs. The question of a proper and authoritative classification is equally interesting to breeders on this side the Atlantic and we hope to see the matter taken up by the A.K.C. and the C.K.C.

Mr. McAllister, of the Laurel Kennels, Peterborough, seems to be in hard luck. He was importing a fine young dog to take the place of Laurel Laddie which unfortunately died on the voyage out. Mr. McAllister has been in pretty hard lines

lately, but we have no doubt his indomitable pluck and enterprise will ultimately get rid of the hoodoo that seems at present to hang around his kennels. The collie fanciers of Canada would regret to hear that Mr. McAllister had any intention of giving up the breed.

Mr. Isaac Stewart's Kennels at Amherst Park are temporarily dispersed through the accident of a fire which occurred at his residence there the end of last month. The house and contents were totally destroyed, but the dogs in the kennels were saved and are at present taken charge of by sympathizing neighbors until Mr. Stewart can arrange for permanent quarters.

In a former issue a hint was given that Mr. Jos. A. Laurin, the well-known fancier and admirer of the Airedale terrier, was negotiating for a cracker-jack of that breed and we are pleased to learn that he has been successful. Mr. Laurin has secured the noted English winner, Willow Nut, a dog which has a reputation not only as a prize-winner himself, but also as a sire of many who have made their mark on the show bench, such fine dogs as Champion Arthington, Hyndman Briar and Tinner being amongst his get. Willow Nut in the course of his career has annexed no less than 133 first prizes, and his progeny is credited with something like 73—an enviable record in a country like England where competition is usually so keen. To keep this famous dog company, Mr. Laurin also imported Princess Briar, a bitch which has also achieved distinction as a prize-winner at important shows, and is at present in whelp to her mate. Both dogs are undoubtedly grand examples of the Airedale, and we trust that the enterprise exhibited by Mr. Laurin in his efforts to introduce this breed will meet with fitting recognition from admirers of a game, affectionate and useful dog.

Newmarket Kennels has more than a Canadian reputation as breeders of bull terriers and they have at present two, a dog and bitch, which give promise of still further increasing the fame of their kennels, viz.: Newmarket Hero (Norwood Hero—Norwood Queen), and Newmarket Kit (Lord Minto—Newmarket Beauty).

One of the tiniest of the canine race is known by the name of "sleeve" dog, a product of China, that land of oddities and small feet. A specimen of the breed recently brought to America is thus described by an exchange. "This breed was reserved for the royal family and women of the court at Pekin, and was carefully guarded from the outside world. They were carried in the wide loose sleeves of the dress worn by the women of China, and derive their name from this fact. They were allowed to run on the ground but very little, and consequently the hair growing from the tips of their toes was of extraordinary length; on Morgan, when he first reached America this hair was over four inches long, and in his first attempts at walking, he would trip and fall over by stepping with his fore feet on the long hair of his hind toes. In appearance this breed slightly resembles the Pekin poodle, which is somewhat like a Japanese pug; the "sleeve" dog is much smaller and his fore legs are widely bowed, while he stands higher at the hips than at the shoulders. Morgan has a long and glossy coat of fine black hair. He seems above the average small dog in intelligence, and his ear is quick for all sounds, and he readily distinguishes the footsteps of the different members of the family. He is two years old, five inches high at the shoulders and six inches at the hips. He is nine inches long and weighs one pound and a half."