

The Kennel.



THE FOX TERRIER.

ITS VALUE, CARE, AND CULTURE.

EW terrier men, on this side of the Atlantic, can realise the immense popularity which these charming members of the "In-fusoria family now overrunning the canine world," as a well-known writer once called them, enjoy, and have maintained for years. It is scarcely too much to say that a well-bred Fox Terrier in the pink of show condition, and health, displays more blood-like quality, and style, than any other breed of dog, grey-hounds, perhaps, excepted; added to this he is of a gay and sanguine temperament, the best of workers, a faithful companion, of just the right size, and, what is the greatest of all his virtues in the eyes of the pluck-loving Anglo-Saxons, he is, when rightly bred, a dog, "fearing not death, nor shrinking from distress." With all these claims to consideration, is it not surprising that he should hold such a prominent place in the hearts of thousands of Britons, nor that such high prices should have been paid for him. It is well known that Old Jock, even in the early grey dawn of Fox Terrier history, many times changed hands for his weight in silver, but such a value was comparatively trifling, compared to the long prices that have been paid and refused in later times. The sale of Old Tyke, at Birmingham show, by Mr. Gibson to Astbury, for one hundred and twenty-five pounds, and the purchase by Mr. Fletcher, of Tyke's greatest rival, Champion Rattler, for one hundred pounds, caused considerable comment in the Fox Terrier world. Amongst the other incidents that we can call to mind was the refusal by Mr. S. W. Smith of eighty pounds offered him by Mr. Bassett, at the Crystal Palace Show, for Banjo, a son of Old Tyrant, who had never previously been shown, and who was then entered "not for competition." The refusal of one hundred and twenty pounds, by Mr. Sarsfield to Mr. Gibson, for Champion Fussy, and the offer lately made by Mr. Southwell, to Mr. Astley, of one hundred pounds for Corinthian, which was also refused. Mr. Dixon gave Mr. Sale two hundred and ten pounds for Old Tyrant, Old Sam, Myrtle and Jenny, and the writer bought the champion dogs, Whip, Cynic, and Beauty (since re-named Decker, and expatriated to Australia) and the prize bitches, Zuliaka and Peg Woffington from Mr. De la Poer for three hundred pounds. When Mr. Burbidge gave Mr. Turner two hundred pounds for Nettle, it was thought that the limit of long prices was reached, but it was capped by Mr. Hind being content to part with two hundred and fifty pounds to obtain possession of Champion Buffet; but all these transactions "pale their inflectual fires" before the claiming by Lord Lonsdale of Mr. Field's entry of wire-haired terriers at Oxford show for eight hundred and fifty pounds. Of course, many of the long prices that have been paid were far and away above the value of the animals, many wretches having changed hands for many pounds that were not worth as many shillings. The writer could name many men who, from humble circumstances, have attained to competencies by trading flatcatchers to greenhorns, and the words "value received" that have appeared on the promissory notes that have sometimes accelerated the transactions have been indeed a fiction. It is, of course, admitted that they are extenuating circumstances, when a tyro who aspires to be a successful exhibitor purchases a worthless brute from some astute dealer as it is only by long and careful study of comparative merit as against intrinsic merit that a man can ever hope to make a success in fox terriers or to hold his own on the show bench. Many men have started with the greatest enthusiasm, as they have, alas, in the more serious business of life, and have been disheartened

by failures which have in all case resulted from their own ignorance and gullibility. And yet many have been able to say that "nothing succeeds like success," men like Mr. Murchison, Mr. Astley, and some few others have had simply to parade their dogs in the ring as a matter of form, to take whatever prizes were offered, but they have always made the subject a study, and that is necessary to make any walk in life a success.

(To be continued.)

TOY, OR PET DOGS.

Although it should be the aim of breeders of all classes of dogs, to select for breeding purposes only the handsomest and best-formed of their kind, this applies in much greater degree in relation to breeds that are kept solely as ornamental and affectionate companions. The dog multiplies itself so rapidly, and breeders have become so skilful in taking advantage of the eccentric variations that nature sometimes permits, that new breeds are constantly cropping up amongst the toy varieties, and claims of mysterious origin, and fabulous rarity and value, are often allowed to pass unchallenged for quaint-looking or whimsical sports, or freaks of nature.

That capricious dame, Fashion, is principally responsible for determining what shall be the favorite lap-dog. London is the great centre for breeders of pet dogs, and enormous quantities of pugs, Italian grey-hounds, toy spaniels, Maltese and Yorkshire terriers, &c., are produced in the filthy slums of London, and ultimately find generous owners and luxurious homes in the boudoirs of England's fair nobility and gentry.

On this side of the Atlantic, the business of breeding and dealing in pet dogs has not yet assumed such proportions, although in New York, Boston, or other large cities of this continent you may any day meet every few blocks, a seely looking citizen with a couple of pups on his arms for sale. Such are mostly mongrels of the worst kind, because if any breeder is known to possess any strain of value in a large city, he can sell more than he can produce at very remunerative rates, and do a thriving business without hawking them round the streets.

Unfortunately the growing demand for handsome dogs has greatly increased in our midst that abominable pest, the dog thief. There are a few villains of this sort in Toronto, who have a wholesome dread of periodicals such as THE EXCHANGE AND MART, which offers an uncomfortably ready means of exposing their machination.

When pugs are in the ascendancy, specimens of good color that are perfectly marked, with good masks, vents, wrinkles, moles, and trace command very high prices, but of late that aristocratic looking little fellow has been somewhat neglected, and it is rare to see on the show benches of our exhibitions any very high-class specimens. A perfect trace, or narrow black line down the back, is very difficult to breed, and is rarely ever seen now-a-days.

Far superior, as a pet, to the pug, is the King Charles or Blenheim Spaniel. As a breed they are much more intelligent and affectionate, and it is a pity that they are not more in demand amongst the Canadian community.

In New York, last year, the black poodle was very popular, and a number of very excellent specimens were exhibited at the May show. No dog is capable of being so easily trained to perform astonishing tricks, and when carefully clipped and trimmed, he can be made to assume very fantastic and grotesque shapes.

The little blue and tan Yorkshire terrier, which has been developed since the younger days of the writer, is probably the handsomest and most engaging breed of them all. Unfortunately it is a very troublesome matter so keep their long silky coats in proper trim. In Scotland there is a very similar breed called Glasgow or Paisley Skyes, and undoubtedly they are of the same origin, but the prevailing color of the latter is blue or silver-grey. In Montreal there are several extensive breeders of both varieties, and they readily sell puppies at very remunerative figures.

Breeding and rearing small toy dogs requires considerable knowledge and skill, and it is an interesting and profitable hobby to many amateurs.

—SIMCOE,