

Dogs.

ENGLISH FOX HOUND.

The modern English Fox Hound is really one of the most wonderful animals in creation, owing probably to the great care which has been given to his breeding for the last three centuries. Some Fox Hound establishments have cost their owners £8000 to £10,000 per year, and the money and talent which has been expended for this purpose has resulted in wonderful success. The Fox Hound, like all other dogs, must be selected for the country he is to range in. The middle size is the most approved, for the reason that, like all other animals, they are found to be stronger and better able to endure fatigue. Height and colour is a matter of taste. A good dog cannot be of bad color—that is to say, we do not think colour has much to do with the specific character of the animal, but in shape all must agree. We should not prefer a large hound to one of medium size, since in a thick woven country, or in a thorny brake, he, as the poet says, "Painfully tugs, and, torn and embarrassed, bleeds."

One of the most important features is that the pack be all of a size and look of the same family. There are certain points in a hound, as in a horse, which should be always looked after. If not of perfect symmetry, he will not show speed, nor get through much work. His legs should be perfectly straight; his feet round and not too large; his shoulders well back; breast rather wide; chest deep; back broad; head small; neck thin; tail thick and bushy, and carried well.

A small head indicates high breeding and looks more beautiful. We do not say large headed dogs are in any wise inferior.

The prevailing colours of the present day are black and white, with tan. The blended colours are known as "Pies"—red pie, blue pie, yellow pie, gray pie, lemon pie, and badger pie. The last two are very handsome. Tan, black, white, red, blue, are more or less mixed with white.

The fox hound is always to be looked upon as part of a pack, just as a soldier is a part of a regiment; so that it is no use to breed him exceptionally high, or

small, or otherwise, if you make him run different from his companions. His nervous and physical organism makes him peculiar for dash.—*Moore's Rural.*

HEN FEATHERED GAME FOWLS.

Mr. Tegetmeier, in the *Field* newspaper, gives the following extract from the letter of a correspondent respecting the breed of hen-feathered game fowls. "Speaking of the hennies formerly used in the Cockpit he writes:—

"I have bred and admired these birds from my childhood, and speak within bounds when I say that thousands have passed through my hands within the last thirty years, and that although you have been the first to call attention to the change of plumage, nothing is more sure than for half, three parts, or more bred hentails to put on the full hentail plumage at two years old, the time when a cock becomes perfect in all his parts, in the opinion of cockers. Full or eight parts bred hennies of course hatch and always remain hen-feathered, and never breed or moult into long or shine feathered cocks, but six parts, four parts, or the least strain of hennie introduced into any breed will surely return in after generations. And this is a great point with those old fanciers who contend that the hennies are a perfectly original, distinct and pure breed. But not only do they change their long bright feathers, but their colour also turns to the original hentail colour. Here is a case out of hundreds; indeed, I will produce fifty cock chickens now with long bright plumage, and at their two-year-old moult forty or more shall be perfectly hen-feathered. I was asked to show a pair of hennies at the last Menheniot show. I took up a pair near home, sent them, and took first prize. I was offered money for them, and, on declining to sell, was asked to send the same pair to the Crystal Palace. I sent them. The cock and hen were there seen as perfect grey hennies. But such was not the case, as the cock was only six-eighths in hennie blood, and four months before he was shown at Menheniot, he was one of the most gaudy, full-feathered, freckle-breasted, marigold duckwings ever seen. Full, or all eight parts hen-cocks vary in size, from 4 lbs. to 7 lbs. weight, are of all colours, but spangle, grey, black and brown predominate. Formerly, what were called fig-puddings