

The Kennel.

DOG SHOWS.

THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

There is a natural disposition in human nature to form its estimate of what is lovely and beautiful on other people's opinions. When certain influential persons have declared a girl to be lovely, she becomes "the fashion," and straight-way human nature in general, and mankind in particular, fall at her feet. Her portrait is exhibited in the store windows and elsewhere, crowds line the sidewalk along the route over which her carriage is expected to pass, and men and women go into raptures of ecstasy over her beauty, when doubtless the inward and unacknowledged thought of many is—"Well! I don't see that she is so very lovely after all."

Within certain limits the same observations hold good with regard to dogs. A breeder finds amongst one of his litters, a dog possessing certain characteristics different from those possessed

arrangement, the holding of shows or exhibitions, and the offering of prizes for the breeding and rearing of perfect dogs, which has now become a recognized industry in most civilized countries. The Exhibition affords amusement and pleasure to a large number of people, who take vast delight in looking upon what they have brought themselves to believe, is a beautiful thing. It forwards trade and sport; it encourages kindness and humanity to the lower creation, and sets a premium upon the careful culture and breeding of our intelligent canine friends and companions.

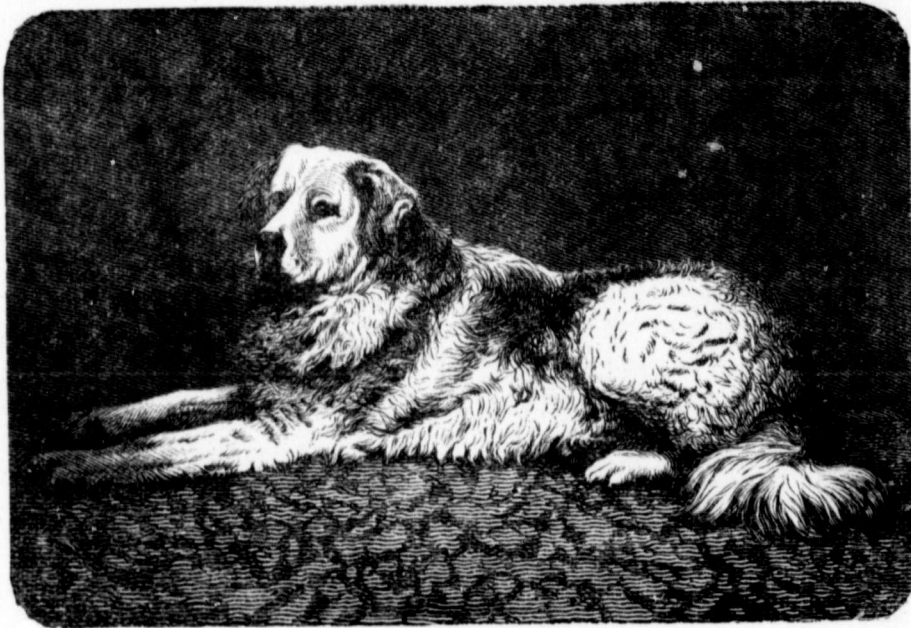
All this being granted, there is little room for doubting that canine exhibitions are a benefit to the community, when fairly and honestly conducted. But unhappily for canine lovers and breeders, it but too frequently happens, that they are managed by regulations the very reverse of fair or honest. If a prize be offered for the best Gordon setter on exhibition, and the reward be given to an inferior dog, it naturally follows that dog breeders become dissatisfied and disgusted,

DOG NOTES.

THE COLOUR OF COLLEYS.

At a recent meeting of the Colley Club in the North of England, a division of dogs was recommended to be made, classifying them according to colour; thus, black, black and tan, black, white and tan, black and white, black saddle with tan markings, sable, or any other colour.

We cannot but say this appears to be treating the sheep-dog on wrong lines; it is making a mere fancy article of one of the most useful and sagacious of our breeds. The division into classes, according to minute differences in colour and markings, of fancy pigeons, poultry, canaries and tame mice has this reason in its favour, that these are kept solely for points of beauty, real or arbitrary, and for the pleasure they afford to fanciers in developing new variations from the normal by taking advantage of what, in gardening language, is termed "sports;" but it is



CABOT.

EXHIBITED BY MR. GEORGE CLARKE.

by the remainder. He carries it to a judge, who pronounces those characteristics worth cultivating. By careful breeding a litter is produced possessing the same points of distinction. The dogs are largely advertised, and extensively puffed. One doggy man writes to the *Times*, in rapturous terms, and another to the *Field*, till all the sporting world is seized with a desire to possess these newly hatched chickens. They may be as ugly as a Billingsgate loafer, as ill-tempered as bull-dogs, and as vicious as cats, but they have become the fashion amongst sporting humanity, and so a new breed of dog is introduced to the world.

Take the bull-dog for example. Now point me out any man, woman or child who, on seeing a bull-dog for the first time, can honestly admire it. Yet to properly cultivated minds, (our own for example), a thoroughbred bull with all points perfect, is only second in its beauty to an angelic visitant. Why? Because competent judges have declared it to be perfect, and what is perfect is lovely.

In order to assist the world in forming a right judgment on these important matters, a scale of points has been drawn up by which all judges and persons in authority profess to be governed. This, therefore, brings us to the subject of our article.

It is undoubtedly a right, a just and a useful

refuse to exhibit again, a lot of worthless mongrels are shown in their place, so that the very object of the show is neutralized.

Again, breeders will not expose valuable dogs for sale if the animals are liable to be stolen. It is a manifest fraud to ask a man to place valuable property under your care, and then allow it to be stolen from him and from you. Men will not lend a \$5000 chronometer to any human being, unless not only his honesty but his capability for taking care of the jewel be above suspicion. Then why should they be less careful with a dog of the same value? The impunity with which valuable pups and yet more valuable dogs were abstracted at the late Toronto exhibition will, we feel certain, be a strong check upon men wishing to exhibit at the next show in this city. In order to make it a success the following rules will have to be adopted:—

Judges should under no circumstances whatever be permitted to exhibit.

A stronger force of police should be stationed in and around the buildings.

Detectives in plain clothes should be placed in charge of each department.

More stringent rules should be framed respecting the removal and exercise of dogs.

If a dog is worth exhibiting he is worth taking care of.

surely out of place applied to colleys, and we cannot accept it as in any sense calculated to improve the breed.

WATER SPANIEL EATING EGGS.

To the Editor of *The (Canadian) Exchange and Mart*.

DEAR SIR,—A lady living on George street possesses an old Irish water spaniel bitch, which, for some years past, has shown a marked liking for eggs as an article of food. The moment she hears the hens cackle she rushes to the nest and devours the new laid egg, spitting out the shells after she has swallowed the content. Occasionally, when hungry, I have seen her seat herself in front of the sitting hen and stare her out of countenance (but never molesting her) until the egg laid, the hen walks away, and "Fanny" takes her lunch. Can you suggest any way of curing the dog of this habit? It is expensive and exasperating. Yours, etc.

[Make the hens' nests in barrels, or place them out of Fanny's reach. We do not remember to have met with a similar case. Try the effect (having adopted the above-mentioned precaution) of giving the dog a china nest egg to mouth when she pleases.—Ed.]