

fits; this stage is recognised by blood-shot eyes—in fact, they appear to dread the light, and to shun it as much as possible. It is often possible to observe a fine animal, such as a noble retriever, in this state, for when he gets up, as he is impelled by his affectionate disposition to greet his master, he again falls down in a fit. The fits increase in violence, until, as an act of mercy, the dog is destroyed.

Many quack remedies have been tried as preventives, as well as cures, for distemper; the great majority of them are, however, worthless; for example, whilst one recommends starving the dog, another as strongly insists upon high feeding, with physicking. My experience is in favour of liberal feeding; but young pups should never be stuffed, as they often are, three or four times every day with flesh-meat. Anyone at all acquainted with this common disease can in a moment detect, without any previous information, when the animal has been over-fed; in fact, no dog can successfully fight against distemper if he is in high condition, and, on the other hand, from the debilitating nature of the disease, a poorly fed cur has hard work to overcome it, though of the two I should prefer to undertake the latter, with a far greater certainty of successful treatment.

Take the following instance, which will tend to throw more light upon my meaning than volumes of mere words. Four retriever pups, all by the same mother, were weaned, and brought up in the same house; two, which were considered to be the strongest, were allowed to be fed by the cook, although under our own eye. They had three hearty meals every day—early in the morning porridge, about noon they secured-cooked flesh-meat, with a sprinkling of potatoes, then towards evening, before being fastened up for the night, another meal, mostly flesh-meat. The other pair were placed under the care of the cowman, and for seven months never knew the taste of animal food, and I am afraid they seldom had more than two meals during the day, which consisted of milk and bread. The two house-fed pups were finer animals in every way. When they were about 22 weeks old, a sheep dog, on the farm, took distemper, which without doubt spread to the four retrievers, but mark the results, the couple brought up in the shippens, although they took the disease first, had it so slightly that beyond a discharge of thick slimy mucus from the eyes and nostrils, and refusing to eat for three or four days, it could not be detected.

From the first appearance of distemper, in the house pups, they were treated with care, but it ran its course so rapidly that my usual remedies quite failed in giving relief; to cut it short, I lost both, but

gained a little experience. Afterwards, two other pups were reared from the bitch, but one was from the day when it was weaned brought up with a woodman, on Delamere Forest, where it was isolated from all companionship with its canine brotherhood. Strange to tell, it never took distemper whilst on the forest. At two years of age it was sold to a gentleman in the North of England, when mingling freely with other dogs it then had the distemper. But this was but a solitary case, and perhaps it is unwise to judge from a single example, though all the above instances go far to prove it to be an infectious disease.

Sulphur, often resorted to as a preventive, is as powerless to prevent the attack, as are also salt, antimony, chopped grass mixed with the ordinary food, and many more things which are highly extolled by the squire's game watcher, and being recommended by a servant high in power, are firmly believed by all the rustics for miles around. Mark? I do not say sulphur is not an excellent alternative, and as such is very useful to pampered dogs, as well as a spring medicine.

Vaccination is recommended as a preventive in Colonel Hawker's celebrated sporting work; it certainly can do no harm, and is worth trying. If it could be tested in a large kennel for three successive years, and a record kept of each case which was successfully vaccinated, it would be most valuable. My experience has been so limited that I cannot speak so fully upon this interesting theme as I wish. Suffice for me to say, that in every case in which it has been fairly tried, the dogs went through the distemper bravely; by making use of the word "bravely," I mean that it left no injurious effects behind, the pups having it very lightly indeed. This operation should be performed upon a part where the dog will be unable to lick or scratch itself. The inside of the ear is often selected, but this place is not so good as on the shoulder, for the simple reason that the circulation of blood is better in the shoulder, rendering the operation more successful. It can be done by the most inexperienced person, if they are careful to secure good vaccine lymph from a child, or from a reliable surgeon. Shave a few hairs close to the skin, then draw blood by puncturing it several times with a fine needle; remove the blood with a sponge, and rub the vaccine matter well over the part selected.

Directly the disease is detected I advise an emetic, composed of two or three grains of tartar emetic made into a pill; if this does not operate in the course of an hour I give another dose, though the first pill seldom fails, if it is followed with a wine-glassful of warm water in which a tea-spoonful of salt is dissolved. Avoid all depletive measures, and never

allow bleeding or physicking in any way; the dog will lose flesh fast enough without your doing it for him. After the vomiting has ceased, if you suspect constipation, it is well to have a few pills at hand composed as follows:—Take calomel 2 grains; rhubarb powder, 3 grains; aloes, 3 grains. Mix and make one pill.

Give one every morning for three days in succession—for dogs of small breeds for two mornings. Your own common sense will tell you to keep the dog warm, and to give him nothing for the first few days but warm milk. If you perceive its strength rapidly diminishing, give a small quantity of strong beef-tea with the milk. Sponge the nostrils and eyes with tepid water twice every day, and if the breathing is difficult, you can give immediate relief by applying a thick flannel, wrung out in hot water, around the shoulders and breast. If about the third day the febrile symptoms are strongly marked, use the mixture. Take spirits of nitre, 4 drachms; tincture of aconite, 10 drops; water, to make a 2 oz. mixture. Give a tablespoonful twice each day.

I have also found 4 grains of the antimonial powder, given in conjunction with the calomel pills, useful. If the disease has been going on several days, a strong dose of "turpith mineral" should be given at once, followed by the calomel pills; though if the dog is a favorite the complaint is detected in its first stage; then the latter remedy need not be used.

When the complaint is leaving the dog, let him be carefully looked after for a week or ten days, for this is the critical period. Feed him upon a generous diet, but take care not to give him large lumps of raw meat. If any flesh-meat is given, let it be cut up in small pieces, so as to be more easily digested. Although scores of dogs have been placed under my care, or for which I have advised with their owners, yet I have never known the above simple treatment to be unsuccessful when taken in time, and combined with a plain but nourishing diet.

I have been astonished to find many intelligent persons believe distemper to be, comparatively speaking, a complaint known only about half a century in this country; and even Mr. Daniel, in *Rural Sports*, gives credence to this opinion. Our forefathers, more than a century ago, knew the distemper. I could cite two old authors, who, speaking about it, thought it incurable. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." Thanks to the kindness shown to our intelligent friend, though we now know it so well, we do not dread it so much as our ancestors.—JAMES F. ROBINSON.

BIRTH.—At Milton, on 25th inst., CXXIX. "BRANITZA," 5383, a daughter, grand-daughter of "Sally Banker," through "DARLING," CXX., 1371.