

fully bound in cloth, we are told they are proving popular books of the day on the booksellers' counters.

That 30,000 copies of the first Canadian edition of *The Doctor*, by Ralph Connor, should be printed and that the United States publishers have printed 100,000 copies, besides an English edition of 25,000—and the demand is not yet met—attests in concrete form to the interest that attaches to the books of this now famous author.

With the printers waiting to close up this issue of CANADIAN OUT-DOOR LIFE we have not room to review *The Doctor* at length, but it is written in the author's own attractive style and is a book that everyone will read with interest. Like some others of Ralph Connor's books, this, again, is a story of the Rockies. The Canadian publishers are The Westminster Company, Toronto, Canada. The book is creditably printed and attractively bound.

## Origin of the Staghound

IN the early middle ages the staghound had his origin in the forests of Ardennes. There the monks of St. Hubert bred the hounds, which were the foundation of our modern packs. Two races similar in build and appearance, but different in color, took their origin from the Benedictine monastery in the Ardennes. There was the black St. Hubert, slow, deep-voiced, ponderous, and always staunch to the line; and the white St. Hubert, with an equal gift of tracking man or beast, almost if not quite the same rich tones in his voice, somewhat lighter in build and swifter of foot. This latter variety it was that laid the foundations of the royal kennels of France, which received year by year a tribute of hounds from the kennels of the monks of St. Hubert. The same white hounds were brought to England by the head of the Talbot family, and, rapidly gaining credit for their qualities in the chase of the stag in the forests of England, were known as Talbots. These hounds are the foundation stock from which was built up with the aid of many crosses the old English staghound, and his modern descendant, the foxhound. In the year 1825 the last pack of English staghounds was sold to go to Hungary. They were the representatives of the old Talbot, but about the time of the Stuarts they were crossed with the hound of Normandy and Vendee. Indeed the pictures of the old English staghound as he was in the early years of the nineteenth century greatly resemble the hounds of Vendee. This last is supposed by French writers to be the descendant of the white hounds of the royal kennel of the house of France. French authorities believe that these royal hounds were crossed with the greyhound to give them speed, and with the pointer to give them quickness and dash in their work. Those writers who, like Collyns, had seen

and heard the old hounds hunting in the deep combs of Devon and Somerset, or followed them as they swept over the grass and heather of Exmoor, describe them with regretful admiration. They were tall, powerful hounds, standing 28 inches at the shoulder; they had large and noble-looking heads, their ears were placed lower than those of our foxhounds, and the skin of the ears was soft and fine. The whole carriage and appearance of the staghound resembled—as was natural, considering their common origin—the bloodhound. They had the broad open nostrils of the Norman hound, with which, as we have seen, they had some consanguinity; they were fine of nose and deep of tongue, and their rolling music could be heard for miles over Exmoor. The prevailing color was white, with splashes of lemon. From their Vendean ancestors they derived the gift of holding without change to the foil of the hunted deer. They had great steadiness and perseverance, yet I think that the length of the chases in their day showed that these old staghounds were not so fast as the foxhounds of our time. Not that the staghound was much slower on a scent than the foxhound, but was more leisurely in his work and less intelligent at a check. The pace of a modern pack of hounds is, if we may put it so, in their minds. They think so quickly, and make up their minds with much more rapidity, that their cast is made and the line recovered in less time than it took the old hound to think what he would do next. Yet, although the old staghound has long since disappeared, he was undoubtedly, in the case of the famous pack of the Duke of Beaufort and many others, the ancestor of the modern foxhound. We find traces of this especially among the larger hounds of a foxhound kennel, in the instances of reversion to staghound type and methods.

—T. F. Dale, in *Blackwood's Magazine*.

"Tuberculosis may be practically stamped out."

—Dr. Herman M. Biggs.