

there is practically no cure; the immediate remedy is a drop or two of castor oil placed in the bird's mouth, and applied to the egg passage with a feather or small brush, which generally gives relief; the benefit, however, is but temporary, and sooner or later the bird will die if allowed to go to nest. The causes of this complaint are obscure. I have known it to occur in summer as well as in winter, in thin as well as in fat specimens, and in birds scarcely over their first moult, as well as in others that had successfully reared several broods; however, as the egg is generally found, when eventually passed, to be more or less deficient in shell, I fancy the complication arises from insufficient lime in the food, and would recommend a liberal supply of mortar rubbish, pounded oyster-shells, or cuttlefish bones to be placed in the aviary, and even mixed with the seed in the seed pans; or a little lime water might be occasionally substituted for that which they usually drink. Some newly imported Budgerigars suffer from diarrhoea, which is caused by drinking too much or dirty water, and will be readily cured by giving the birds a limited supply of clean water slightly acidulated with sulphuric acid; if, however, it is one of the complications of consumption, or typhoid fever, there is no cure, and the poor little sufferer will soon die, happy if he does not affect one or more of his companions.

(To be continued.)

### Kennel Department.

All communications, items of news, etc., on this subject, should be addressed to the Editor Kennel Dept., Poultry Review, 168 King St. east, Toronto.

### CHAMPIONS.

Exhibitors of dogs will probably be gratified to learn that there is every prospect of the subject of Champion dogs being speedily set at rest by the Kennel Club. The existence of a special grievance in connection with dogs falsely styled champions by their

owners has long been a blot upon our show system; and the sooner the bestowal of such barren honours on a dog by his own master is put a stop to, the better it will be for exhibitors. At present, any one who owns a dog is at liberty to style him champion, and advertise him as such, although the animal may never have won a prize at other than second rate shows; and even appeared on such occasions with only moderate success. At present the information required by exhibitors is, "What constitutes a champion?"

This is a query which is frequently addressed to us by curious and information seeking correspondents. Unfortunately, the difficulty in replying to the question does not diminish by its repetition, and we are therefore frequently in a position of difficulty when replying to the question, What is a champion? There seems to be many vague renderings of the term, some of which appear to have found favour with exhibitors, but several of which could never be accepted by any practical or experienced breeder. One gentleman suggests that a dog is a champion who has at any period of his existence met and defeated a dog which in his turn has, either before or since that date, succeeded in carrying off a champion prize. In the face of the many reversals of opinion, which have occurred so frequently in connection with judging dogs, we cannot believe it possible that such a proposition would receive much support from exhibitors.

Another suggestion, and an equally impracticable one, is that all the winning dogs of each breed should be judged together at the latter end of the year, and the champion selected from them. Other ideas we have heard mentioned which it would be equally foolish to adopt even if feasible, and as a rule it may be said that the suggestions of exhibitors have not done much to smooth away the difficulty. One obstacle in arriving at any general rule is, that certain breeds are, from the

nature of surrounding circumstances very much more favoured in the way of champion classes than less popular varieties. It cannot, therefore, be possible for the Kennel Club or any other body to lay down a law that before a dog becomes a champion he must of necessity have been placed first in a certain number of champion classes. In breeds where such classes are rarely in the prize-list, such an edict would practically abolish the existence of a champion in the variety. In such cases, a dog who has succeeded in winning a certain number of first-prizes at first-class shows might be regarded as a champion; and even in event of his having competed unsuccessfully in a champion class, if such a class was ever given the breed, that need not disqualify him from maintaining the distinction, if he had otherwise once fairly won it.

The major difficulty we see, however is in separating the real from the spurious champions. Even if the necessary rules for the regulation of the title are laid down by our authorities, there is still nothing to prevent an unscrupulous or ignorant owner from prefixing "champion" to his dog's name. To meet this evil, the only plan we can see is to publish the *bona fide* champions' names in all official documents, with some distinguishing mark attached to them. The Kennel Club Stud-book, our Kennel Register, and the catalogues of shows held under the Club's auspices, would do much to assist all genuine champions in their efforts to gain distinction. A salutary rule might also be passed, to the effect that any dogs advertised for sale or stud as champions, and who had no true claim to the title, would be liable to disqualification at shows held under the Kennel Club rules. If such a rule were passed we would insert no advertisement with the word attached unless we could prove its genuineness by reference to the Register. This would do much to save stumbling-blocks from being put in the way of the unwary,