

off to a pouter. An important feature also in the markings of a pouter is a clear white and well defined crescent on the front of the crop or globe." He then remarks, "No mortal man but a pigeon fancier, who knew what the points of a blue pouter should be, could make head or tail of such gibberish as this; and he would see immediately that three of the points in the markings of a blue pouter were omitted, viz., that the bird should have the ten flight feathers of each wing, or as it is termed, 'white flighted with ten on a side,' and should be 'clean rumped,' that is, supposing a string was passed round the body of the bird just above the thighs, and another one below it at the junction of the tail with the body, every feather between these two strings, and all the feathers on the legs to the tips of the toes, should be white; and the junction of the white and blue feathers at the strings should be as even and regular as the line of the string itself."

But absurd as this must appear to those who know better, it is capped by the following, wherein they say, "yellows, reds, and blacks, with their respective colours, should be marked in a similar manner as blues." When I read this I exclaimed with Dominic Sampson: "Pro-digious!" So we are to have, I suppose, black pouters with bars, and yellow and red pouters with self-coloured (that is, yellow and red) tails! No wonder that the great bulk of the pouters have degenerated into the badly marked, mongrel wretches seen in such numbers, if such loose notions of what they should be are disseminated.

I defy any man living, "Carrier" goes on to say, to point out to me how the points of plumage of any English pigeon can be improved and made to look more beautiful by any change from the present well known standards; more especially pouters, which are one of the most truly marked varieties, and when so are faultless. Size in this bird, which is made so much of at present, is absolutely a point to show off another plumage, and of course, when most perfectly doing this, is fulfilling its proper duty; yet now the major is made subservient to the minor point. Given large size, fine shape, and true plumage marking in a pouter, and what can beat it? But all are essentials to make up perfection, and no one should be sacrificed to another.

THE SETTER DOG.

Like the Pointer, the head of the Setter should be broad at the top between the eyes; the muzzle, though, must be longer and more tapering, and not over thick. Towards the eyes he must have a deepish indentation, and on the top of his skull a highish bony ridge. His ears should be long, pendulous, and slightly rounded; the eyes rather dark and full; his nose moist and large. Some breeds and breeders affect black noses and palates. Body like the Pointer, only deeper and broader, if anything; feet small, close, and thickly clothed with hair between the toes, ball and toe tufts they are termed; tail long, fine and tapering, thickly feathered with long, soft, wavy hair; stern and legs down to the feet also feathered. His body and feet also should be clothed with long, soft, silky hair, wavy but no curl in it. This last smells badly of water spaniel. Colours, black and white, red and white, black and tan. These last are considered the finest bred ones. Roan also is good. The Irish Setter is red, red and white, white and yellow spotted. The nose, lips and palate always black. He is also rather more bony and muscular than the English breed, and ten times as headstrong and enduring. He requires constant and severe work, under most rigid discipline, to keep in anything like decent subjection.

The Russian Setter is as distinct from either of the above varieties as bulldog from greyhound. It is covered more profusely with long, thick, curly, soft and silky hair, well on to the top of the head and over the eyes. He is also more bony and muscular, with a much shorter and broader head. What he wants in dash and ranging propensities he makes up for in inward assiduity, extreme carefulness, and extraordinary scenting powers. The cross between this and either of the other setters is much valued by some breeders.

SPANIELS.

Of Spaniels there are several varieties, but of these the Suffolk Cocker is the only one deserving a notice. All the others are too noisy, too heedless, and too quick on their legs. It is almost impossible to keep any one of them steady, and, therefore, in this country, at least, they are totally useless, since you would not see them from the beginning to the end of the day. Yaff! yaff!