

## Kennel.

### THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL.

BY J. S. SKIDMORE.

Concluded from June 16

There is considerable diversity of opinion as to their points for exhibition purposes, and since Mr. McCarthy brought them to what he considered perfection, there has been a great confusion brought about by judges (who have never been breeders) giving prizes to a class of dog that was far from correct. For instance, Mr. McCarthy, in his description in the *Field* in 1859, says the head should be capacious, forehead prominent, whilst his dogs, and the dogs of his day, were all square on the muzzle. A dog with a head of this description would be ignored nowadays, but I am by no means disposed to say that the snipe-nosed ones, which certain of our judges go in for, are correct; it is the fashion to call a weak bitch-faced dog "full of quality." This so-called quality in the Irish water spaniel cannot be got without a corresponding loss of bone and, in my opinion, constitution.

The head from the apex to the eye is large and capacious, giving the appearance of being short, which is by no means the case, only appearing so from its being so heavily furnished with topknot; the dog, which looks long as a puppy, loses it as it gets older. The topknot is one of the chief characteristics of the breed, and it does not arrive at perfection as a rule until the dog attains the age of about two and a half years; it should not grow straight across the face to between the eyes like a wig, but from the front edges of the ears should form two sides a triangle, meeting in a point between the eyes; the head should be well covered with this topknot, the hair of which should be in a dog in full coat 4in. or more long, the forelock hangs gracefully down the face, but I very much admire the topknot when about half grown and when standing straight up all over the head in a most wild Irishman kind of manner.

The face is long, and is the most remarkable feature of the breed to my mind, being in a good specimen quite smooth; the hair no longer than that on a smooth terrier—this short hair should extend to the cheeks. I know of no other dog which carries the same quantity of hair on its head, legs, ears, that has not also a rough face, and however remote may be the cross of poodle or Russian retriever, it will show itself upon the face and cheeks as moustachios and whiskers. This is a point which judges should specially make a note of. I have named it to several, who all have made light of it; not so, however, with Mr. McCarthy and other breeders. The nose is large and with a slight squareness of muzzle. The eyes, too, I have never seen taken into account by any judge, and yet it is the eye that gives character to the face; this should be a deep rich brown, which in the dark or shade is beautiful, not to be described, but seen; a light yellow, or gooseberry eye, is my detestation, and is always accompanied by a coat which before moulting time assumes a very light sandy hue, whilst the dark-eyed ones are many shades darker at the same period of coating.

The ears are about 18in. long in the flesh, lobe shaped, not pointed, and when well furnished with hair should be from 26in. to 30in. from tip to tip, when measured across the head. Old Doctor measured, when he won the last time at the Crystal Palace, 81in.

The chest should be deep and the ribs well sprung, so that the body appears round rather than deep. The shoulders are inclined to be a bit thick, as the dog all over should appear cobby.

The back and quarters are as strong as those of a waggon horse.

The legs should be straight, with good feet, well clothed with hair, both over and between the toes; the fore legs are heavily feathered at the side and behind, with a curled or rough appearance in front. The hind legs are smooth in front, from the hocks downwards, whilst it is essential that they should be feathered behind down

to the foot. In crossing with certain breeds, such as the retriever, this is one of the first points lost.

The tail is, like the face, a sure indication of the breeding; and at the risk of repeating myself, I assert that no other breed of dogs exists with a smooth tail which carries as much hair elsewhere as does the Irish spaniel. These characteristics—viz., tail, face and topknot—stamp him, in my opinion, as the purest of pure bred dogs. The tail is shorter than in most other dogs, thick at the root, and tapering to a string to the point. For about 9in. from the body it is covered with small curls, the remaining portion being smooth.

The coat should consist of innumerable hard short curls, free from wooliness. These curls get felted, or dagged, before moulting time. A woolly coat shows the poodle cross, which also may be detected in the head. A silky coat, with an inclination to waviness instead of curl, indicates a cross with land spaniel or setter; this cross also shows itself in the quality of the leg-feather. The colour is that dark shade of liver called puce, having a rich plum-coloured hue when seen in the sun. The best coloured dog of the breed I ever saw was my old champion Duck when she was in the prime of life. A patch or star of white is often seen on the chest, and should not be regarded as fatal to a dog's winning, as it is met with in the best strains; in fact, in a litter of puppies, if there is one with more white on than the rest, it as a rule is the largest. Whether white is a sign of strength or not I am not prepared to say.

In respect to symmetry—by which I mean the general appearance of the dog, his carriage, style, &c.—he should be judged as you would judge a cob. Many of the dogs of the present day are too leggy. A leggy spaniel of any breed I detest. The best dogs we have seen of late years of this breed have been: Doctor and Rake, bred by Mr. Robson, Hull; Pilot and Sailor, breeder Rev. A. L. Willet; Planeystone and Chance, bred by Mr. Salisbury; Mr. P. J. D. Lindoe's Blarney, Mr. Englebach's Pat, Mr. Fletcher's Young Doctor, Mr. Morton's Paddy and Shamrock, Mr. C. Pilgrim's Barney, and Bridget and Patsey, all bred by myself.

### TILESTON MEMORIAL FUND.

To the Editor of *Town and Country*:

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt to date of further subscriptions to the "Tileston Memorial Fund" as follows:

Previously acknowledged, \$376; W. B. S., \$25; Geo. O. Goodhue (through *Forest and Stream*) \$20; A. Lainsing, \$10; James F. Hall, \$5; R. M. Livingstone, \$5; H. J. T., \$1; Thomas Blankley, \$5; Cash through F. Blankley, \$2.

I enclose copy of letter received from Mr. P. C. Ohl, and would add that we are informed by several clubs, that they are making up lists, an example which we trust others will follow.

Very truly yours,

FRED N. HALL, Sec'y.

45 Cedar St., New York, June 19.

[COPY.]

Mr. P. H. Morris, New York:

DEAR SIR,—Yours covering circular, etc., relative to the fund for the family of the late Wm. M. Tileston to hand.

The sum will be presented at meeting of the N. J. Game & Fish Protection Society, June 29th.

I will also state of at present engaged painting a picture of an English snipe, which I will donate to the fund, suggesting same to be raffled for, your committee setting a price on the picture.

The list I headed with \$10; regret I cannot do better, but trust the call will be liberally responded to.

Yours, very respectfully,

PERCY C. OHL.

Plainfield, N.J., June 23, 1880.

A novel swimming race, between a man and a dog, took place in the Thames, Eng., on June 3. The biped was a below-bridge man, named Dick Smith, and the quadruped a retriever bitch belonging to Mr. Eade, answering to the name of "Now Then." The stakes

were £25 aside, and the distance from London Bridge to Woolwich Pier; but the man was "never in it" with his four-footed antagonist who came in alone. Smith was seized with cramp after going about four miles, and the owner of the dog was then allowed to take her out of the water, she being about three-quarters of a mile in front when Smith retired from the contest.

### KENNEL NOTES.

Notices of Visits, Births, and Sales are inserted free if sent by advertisers or subscribers.

#### VISITS.

Mr. Geo. Macdougall's, Lachine Kennels, New Brighton, Staten Island, liver colored cocker bitch "Flirt" litter sister to "Cora" (1st Montreal, 1st New York, 1880) to Cunningham's, late McDougall's, Bijou (liver) 1st Montreal, 1880, and the best dog at New York. (See *Forest and Stream*, *Field*, London, Eng., *Town and Country*. Pups due about August 26th.

Neversink Lodge Kennels, champion pointer "Queen" to "Croxteth." Red Irish setter "Moya" to Rover II.

#### BIRTHS.

Mr. A. E. Godefroy's Neversink Lodge Kennels, Guymard, N.Y., imported black and tan setter bitch "Champion Beauty" whelped on the 26th, seven puppies, five dogs and two bitches, by A. H. Moore's imported "Bob." Two pups since dead. Also cocker bitch "Flirt" (liver and white) three dog pups, May 8th, to McKeon's "Captain."

## Pigeon Shooting.

### BOGARDUS BEATS RIMELL.

An international pigeon-shooting match at 100 birds each was shot on the Brighton Beach race track near New York on June 30, in the presence of a small but appreciative crowd. The principals were Captain A. H. Bogardus, the champion wing shot of America, and Mr. George Rimell, of England. The last named is a well-known professional whom Bogardus beat in England, and as the American was allowing him one yard, a close and interesting contest was expected. The shooting as a whole was anything but even, some extraordinarily good as well as some very bad shooting being done, Bogardus at one time missing three in succession, Rimell, when in good condition—which he was not—is certainly an excellent shot, and some of his kills with his choke-bored second were wonderful shots. But to beat a man like Bogardus, especially in a shoot at 100 birds, needs not only great skill but perfect condition. The birds, like the shooting, were decidedly an in-and-out lot. They were badly handled and worse retrieved, and as the high grass had not been cut away within the boundary, it was a difficult task to find the birds after they had fallen. The conditions and the result were as follows:

Brighton Beach, Coney Island, N. Y., June 30.—Match \$250 each (\$500), Captain A. H. Bogardus and Geo. Rimell to shoot at 100 pigeons each, from five ground traps, English Rules, with 1½ oz. of shot, 80 yards boundary; Bogardus at 30 yards, Rimell at 29 yards.

Bogardus—Total 91; killed 79; missed 12.

Rimell 91; killed 69; missed 22.

Bogardus used his new "hammerless" gun by Scott, of London, 12 bore, weighing 10 pounds 6 ounces, using 5 drachms of Dittmar powder behind No. 8 in his first barrel. In his second he used 5 drachms Orange Lightning powder behind No. 7. Mr. Rimell used a 12-bore gun by Price, of London, weighing 9½ pounds, the second barrel being choked. He used 5 drachms of powder with concentrators for the first barrel.

The Halifaxians are in trouble now that Ross has won at Providence, for they thought that they could get on some nice matches for their man Warren Smith; but that is all over now and Smith must come right to the front at once or occupy a back seat by himself.