

prizes in the long distance matches, will realize even as much as 500*frs.*, equivalent to \$100. Some idea may be gained of the enthusiasm with which the flying fancy is pursued in Belgium, when the fact is stated that there are 150 societies or clubs offering prizes to be flown for, and that these include nearly 10,000 amateurs.

There is one colour that finds but little favour with the Belgium amateurs, and that is white. This dislike is not an unreasoning prejudice, but depends on the fact that white birds are more conspicuous as they fly than those of darker colour, and, consequently, are more apt to be destroyed by hawks and sportsmen. Setting whites, therefore, on one side, there is but little preference shown to any colours; and *mélays*, blues chequers, blacks, and blue or black pied, are all looked upon with equal favour, if they possess the requisite power of wing to fly with equal rapidity. Some of the flying birds seen in England are frilled very much like an owl or turbit; but we prefer birds without any such irregularity of plumage, as it cannot but interfere with easy and rapid passage through the air.

The training that these birds undergo is very severe. The young birds are taken to gradually increasing distances, as their powers of flight increase, so that eventually they are acquainted with all conspicuous landmarks of the long journeys. If it is attempted to train them too rapidly, or by too long stages, many of the birds are lost; whereas, by careful training, as practised at Liege, only ten per cent. are lost in short courses, and only fifty per cent. are lost even in very long distances. In this province (Liege) they do not fly the young birds of the year more than seventy miles, nor even attempt more than 200 miles the second year, leaving the longer and more severe distances for the older and more mature birds, that have acquired full development and experience.

THE BREED OF PUGS.

The Pug derives its name from the Greek word *Πυγ*, from which comes the Latin word *pygmus*, a fist, because the shadow of a clenched fist was considered to resemble the dog's profile. Their jet black muzzles procured them the name of Carlins in France, from a

famous Parisian harlequin who performed on the French stage about the middle of the last century. They were previously known as "doguins," small bull-dogs, and "roquets," which name they still retain in some parts of the empire.

The pug was most highly valued and carefully bred for many years, to the exclusion of almost all other parlour favourites, and many families of distinction possessed very pure and celebrated "pugs."

The marks of excellence have not varied since the middle or end of the sixteenth century, with one small exception. The old English breed had a small patch of black upon the poll, called the "black velvet," and this is not to be seen in the best specimens of the day. The Dutch and the Italians have always cherished the breed, but they have never approached our standard of excellence in colour, distinct marking, or symmetry. The Dutch specimens are coarse, large, crook-kneed, and phlegmatic, whilst the Italian race is pale in colour, and, in plain language, "mongrelized."

Between the years 1836-46 the Pug was the rarest breed in Great Britain. About the year 1846 one or two specimens appeared, and under the fostering care of a few breeders, admirable examples were produced. The old and absurd system of cropping off the whole of the ears prevailed, and this cruelty was excused because it occasioned that wrinkling and puckering of the forehead, considered essential in a pure dog. The barbarous fashion was continued simply because it had been followed in the days of our grandfathers and great grandfathers—at any rate, up to the year 1804, when the dog was the rage; and very beautiful specimens thus mutilated have been exhibited at recent dog shows in England. Within the last year or two this unhappy custom has been on the wane, and where expediency cannot be pleaded, owing to the dog's occupation, we trust such torture will be abandoned.

The true English Pug should be of a fawn colour, devoid of any smut approaching blackness. Clearness and purity of colour are essential, so as to render the various markings (which we shall proceed to describe) as clear and sharp in outline as possible. The dog should stand on short legs, as straight