

## PROFESSOR WESLEY MILLS'

letter in this issue opens up a question of great import. While we have seen reports in various publications, both American and European, of animal suicides, such as in the case of General Mite, birds hanging themselves, (this latter seems to be a popular *fable*) &c., we have never had a case come under our immediate knowledge.

## IS IT INSTINCT?

That dogs particularly, shall we say possess, or *seemingly* possess, something more than mere instinct, is evident. To any one who has watched a dog dreaming, barking and growling while asleep being plain outward signs of it, it is but natural to suppose that something almost mental in the dogs composition is active while the body is in a state of repose.

## DOGS REASON.

That dogs reason we have no doubt whatever. An incident which actually occurred under our own observation, in this connection, may not come amiss.

## IT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Some years ago while living in the "land of Shamrocks and praties" we possessed a little Fox Terrier bitch, Rose, who was a most intelligent little beastie. One day a peculiar scratching at the door was heard by the maternal head of the family, which as it was known from whom it emanated was taken no notice of. It went on for a few moments and then ceased, to be followed in about five minutes by three or four distinct raps. Going to the door to enquire what was the matter, what was the astonishment of the *Matter* to see Mistress Rose sitting on the steps with a good sized stone in her mouth and expectancy in her eye, waiting for admission.

## NOW WHAT

led that dog to reason that as her scratching at the door was ineffectual a tap with a stone would prove of more use? Was it instinct alone? If not instinct, what was it? Have the researches of "Science" gone thus far? It is a more than interesting subject.

## THIS SAME DOG

afterwards met with a most tragic end. It happened thuswise. At the same time that she was an inmate of the household we also had a Retriever bitch, always of a most jealous disposition but very intelligent. We had occasion one evening to punish the Retriever, for some fault, at the same time praising and caressing the Terrier, this seemed to rankle in the mind (if such a term be correct) of the former, and when kenneled for the night she deliberately caught and killed the poor little Terrier; a long, almost human cry and all was over. They had previously lived amicably together. Was not this the exercising of reasoning power, resulting in a clear case of dog murder?

## OUR ILLUSTRATION.

Our illustration represents the English Mastiff Salva, engraved from a photograph, it is an accurate likeness of this noble animal, presenting a picture well worthy of study Salva was whelped May 5, 1886, she weighs 125 lbs., is kind and gentle, yet a perfect watch dog. Her sire "Champion Ilford Caution" is too well known for comment, while her dam "Bess" is also the dam of such well known prize winners as Duchess who won in 1888, 5 first and 3 special prizes; also Hannah H., Phyllis and Ilford Prince.

Salva has been bred once to Sears Monarch A. K. C. S. B., 8827, the union resulting in such dogs as Wyoming Duke and others of like value.

## THE PUPPY CLASSES.

*Editor Kennel Gazette:—*

Your correspondent "Kanuk" has a sweeping proposition in your last issue. While I think he is too radical in this matter I sympathise with his views to a large extent. The risk of exhibiting puppies is now not only clearly, but as many can testify, sorrowfully known. However, the chief danger is from dis-temper, that worst of all canine scourges. But the fatality of this disease is much greater among dogs under six months; I beg therefore, to make a proposition that may meet the approbation of "Kanuk" and many others.

*Let the puppy classes be confined to dogs over eight months* and extended for dogs of the larger breeds and all varieties of Setters, the Grey-hound, etc., to at least 15 months. Dogs of some breeds as the Grey-hound, St. Bernard and others should be considered puppies till 18 months of age. It is no more fair to oblige dogs of the classes referred to above to compete with specimens of any age than it would be to oblige a youth of 16 years to enter into competition with men. It is generally admitted that dogs of the classes referred to are not matured at 12 months, hence competition against animals of even 19 months is manifestly as unfair as it is unwise. Moreover before a dog of these varieties is at least eight months old it is very hazardous to predict what he may become; and manifestly to give a prize to a puppy that cannot mature into a good dog is not in the interests of breeding.

Such a regulation as I propose, is or has been in force in Britain. I am rather at a loss to know what is to be learned by looking at a Setter, Grey hound, etc. of say three months—i.e. as regards his possible adult ture. These are the unfortunates, too, that frequently fall a prey to disease.

Yours truly,

MOUNT ROYAL.