

KENNEL

CONCERNING BUYING AND IMPORTING DOGS.

“ALL that glitters is not gold,” and “imported” before a dog’s name may mean simply that he has crossed the water. It is no patent of excellence in looks or purity of pedigree. A prospective importer should look beyond the bare announcement, intended to catch his eye, that “Marcus Antonius, XX, repeated his victory at Barn Elms, again beating Napoleon.” Too many importers fail to ascertain that “Marcus” is in his eleventh year, and that his usefulness is about gone. They do not often even inquire how many entries there were at Barn Elms, but are content with the fact that the dog has won “over a hundred prizes,” many of which, in all probability, were won at little shows, where there was no competition. A first-prize win counts in the list, to the uninitiated, for as much as if it had been won at Crufts or the Palace. The “innocent” writes forth price, and with it comes another long list of wins, with the price frequently made high in order to make the dog appear of high value. Importers should always look up the winnings of the dog, note carefully what competitors he met, and their quality, and read intelligently the reports of every one in the class, in the the best dog papers in England. If, after this searching inquiry, the dog appears likely to answer the requirements, a letter to any of the editors of the reputable kennel papers of England will obtain the name of a judge of that breed of dog, whose decision can be implicitly relied upon. The owner of a dog naturally appreciates his own possessions, and therefore the suggestion is made, that a disinterested and thoroughly competent person, should be asked for an honest opinion. The writer speaks from experience; as, having once lived up to these suggestions, he secured a dog that had been underesteemed: yet, after its importation, it won eighty-seven first and special prizes, without being once defeated. Taking it for granted that the suggestions have been acted upon, and a satisfactory purchase made, remember that “eternal vigilance” is the price of success in the show ring. See that your dog is kept in perfect health, through the medium of clean food (regularly given), a clean bed (preferably of corn husks); that it is kept where it is free from damp and drafts, and groomed daily with dandy brush and chamois leather, so that its coat is perfectly clean. So attended to, and with bones well covered, round, neither fat nor lean, it will at any time be in a proper condition.

THE COMING OF THE SCOTTISH TERRIER.

It seems that at last the Scottish terrier is to fill the place for which he is eminently fitted. There is scarcely a single standard of other dogs that has not been pruned, and trimmed, and gerrymandered to a greater or less degree; but the Scottish terrier has escaped the “lightning change act.” Since 1881 there has been no change whatever in its standard, and the result is most gratifying; for breeders are able to mate their dogs year after year, with the knowledge that there is no likelihood of the points of excellence of this season being changed ere the year has passed. There is perhaps, no single breed of terriers that breeds so truly as a Scotchman. This accounts, in no small degree, for the general excellence of the exhibits. In matter of coat he is infinitely preferable to many of the other terriers; in point of cleanliness he is most scrupulous, while in the field where his services are desired, he has no superior. Just at the present time his cause is being espoused by many of our lady exhibitors, and that is a harbinger of ultimate triumph.

THE ETIQUETTE OF THE SHOW RING.

THE ethics of dogdom are, to accept defeat gracefully; and those who are not able to do so, should cease exhibiting. The following, taken from the rules of the Ladies Kennel Association of England, will show that etiquette is just as essential in the show ring, as it is in the drawing-room:

“54. Etiquette of the ring. Members of the L. K. A. will, it is earnestly hoped, set the example of maintaining silence while judging is proceeding, and of refraining from all conversation whatever. While the judging is proceeding, exhibitors should try to preserve absolute silence; and any breach of the etiquette of the ring may, if reported to the Honorable Secretary of the L. K. A., be dealt with as misconduct, under rule 33.

“55. Altercation with the judge. Altercation with the judge, as to his ruling, Or the addressing to him of any remarks regarding an exhibit in the ring, shall be held to be misconduct, under rule 33.”

The fact that such rules had to be promulgated is evidence of the existence of that objectionable personage, the kicker; and well framed, and firmly-carried-out, rules are the only means of dealing with the trouble.

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