

THE ILLUSTRATED

BOOK OF THE DOG.

VERO SHAW, B.A. CANTAB.,

According by the Londing Brookers of the Unit.

WITH AN APPENDIX ON

CANINE MEDICINE AND SURGERY,

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CHAPTER XXIII.

TOY SPANIELS.

THE King Charles and Blenheim Spaniels are so closely allied as regards structural development, that the task of separating them, were it not for their colours, would be extremely difficult. The origin of the two breeds is undoubtedly obscure, but the credit of bringing these most beautiful little pets into popular notice unquestionably lies with His Majesty King Charles II., from which monarch the former variety derives its name.

It must not, however, be imagined that the *existence* of the breed is due to the exertions of its royal patron, for direct allusion is made to it by Dr. Caius in his work alluded to before, in which he clearly connects this variety with the Maltese dog, as the latter then existed; he describes them in the third section of his book as follows :--

". . . Of the delicate, neate, and pretty kind of dogges called the Spaniel gentle, or the comforter, in Latine Metitæus or Fotor."

"These dogges are little, pretty, proper, and fine, and sought for to satisfy the delicatenesse of daintie dames, and wanton women's wills. Instrumentes of folly for them to play and dally withall, to tryfle away the treasure of time" "These puppies, the smaller they be, the more pleasure they provoke, as more meete play-fellowes for mincing mistresses to beare in their bosoms"

From the above extracts it would appear that the Toy Spaniel did not stand high in the estimation of Dr. John Caius; though a few lines later on there is an attempt to prove that this dog was of some service in the world, since he gravely announces, "We find that these little dogs are good to assuage the sicknesse of the stomacke, being oftentimes thereunto applyed as a plaster preservative, or borne in the bosom of the diseased and weake person, which effect is performed by theyr moderate heate. Moreover, the disease and sicknesse chaungeth his place, and entreth (though it be not precisely marcked) into the dogge, which experience can testify, for these kinde of dogges sometimes fall sicke, and sometimes die, without any harme outwardly inforced, which is an argument that the disease of the gentleman or gentle-woman or ouner whatsoever, entreth into the dogge by the operation of heate intermingled and infected."

How any person in his senses could publish the above, and seriously intimate that he believes in his theory, we are at a loss to imagine. It suits us, however, to reproduce it, as showing that in the days of Queen Elizabeth ladies were in the habit of keeping Toy Spaniels about them; and from these no doubt the King Charles Spaniel was subsequently derived.

In the time of King Charles II., the Toy Spaniel may be said to have reached the zenith of its popularity; it was the pampered favourite of the king, and the position it held at court is alluded to in Pepys' Diary, where he states that the Spaniels had free access to all parts of Whitehall, even upon State occasions.

EARLY HISTORY OF TOY SPANIELS.

In the "Naturalist's Library," by Sir William Jardine, published in 1843, the only allusion made to Toy Spaniels is as follows :---

"KING CHARLES SPANIEL.

A beautiful breed, in general black-and-white, and presumed to be the parent of

THE COCKER,

who is usually black, and shorter in the back than the Spaniel. This appears to be the Gredin of Buffon. The Blenheim, Marlborough, or Pyrame of Buffon, is very similar to the above, but the black colour is relieved by fire-coloured spots above the eyes, and the same on the breast and feet; the muzzle is fuller, and the back rather short. The Maltese dog (*Canis Melitæus*) the Bichon or Chien Bouffé of Buffon, is the most ancient of the small Spaniel races, being figured on Roman monuments and noticed by Strabo; the muzzle is rounder, the hair very long, silky, and usually white, the stature very small, and only fit for ladies' lap-dogs."

From the above description it would almost appear that the modern Blenheim Spaniel was practically unknown in the year 1843; but it is incredible that such could be the case; and we must therefore presume that the opinion of Sir William Jardine is not altogether reliable as



TOY SPANIELS. From "Icones Animalium."

regards the subject of *colour*, which in the present day is a matter of very considerable importance in judging Toy Spaniels. We are strengthened in this opinion by the following extract from the *Sportsman's Repository*, written by John Scott, and published in 1820, which states that, "Twenty years ago (*i.e.*, 1800) His Grace the Duke of Marlborough was reputed to possess the smallest and best breed of Cockers in Britain; they were invariably red-and-white, with very long ears, short noses, and black eyes."

Before passing on to the points of the two breeds, regret must be expressed at the gross neglect which these beautiful and highly-interesting little pets have experienced at the hands of the public. In intelligence and natural vivacity they are so far in advance of other ladies' toys, that it seems incredible that they should for so long a time occupy an inferior position to the uninteresting and often quarrelsome Pug. A ladies' pet need not be condemned to a life-long existence in his mistress's boudoir; and the extreme stupidity of the generality of Pugs when out of doors is rendered eminently conspicuous by the very different behaviour of a King Charles or Blenheim Spaniel. Doubtless the fact of a Spaniel possessing a long coat, which requires constant brushing to keep in good order, is an obstacle in the way of its popularity; but the beauty of the dog amply repays any trouble bestowed upon it, and a little care and attention devoted to the toilet of a "Charlie" or Blenheim is certain to be repaid a hundred-fold by the improvement it invariably effects in the dog's appearance. As a matter of fact we have ourselves owned several Toy Spaniels, which, but for the delicacy of their coats, were capable of entering any brushwood. That they frequently attempted to do so in the course of country rambles their torn skins fully attested; but the early repetition of the conduct bore testimony to the animal's love of sport and plucky temperament. Unfortunately, however, the long coat gets clogged with mud and matted

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by damp when out of doors in bad weather, and the task of washing her pet and making him comfortable is beneath the consideration of many lady owners, who only keep the creatures because they, when in health, gratify their eyes by their beauty ; their comfort being quite a secondary consideration with those whose duty it is to keep them comfortable. Such persons should most certainly eschew keeping Spaniels in favour of a pet of a more phlegmatic temperament, and one that takes its pleasure and its exercise in a more respectable though a sadder manner. There is so much life and "go" in King Charles or Blenheims, if they are in perfect health, and accustomed to regular exercise, that they splash themselves with mud to a far greater degree than a quieter dog. On the other hand, as a rule, no toy dog is in possession of so much intelligence, and so capable of being brought under command, and we know of more than one first-rate specimen which is in the habit of following its owner about London as quietly and safely as it would in a country lane.

A Toy Spaniel is in reality a toy only from force of circumstances, and we believe could be readily broken, and worked with the gun, though there would not be much chance of its standing a day's work, on account of its smallness of stature. Our opinions here are shared by the author of the *Sportsman's Repository* above alluded to, who remarks, "The very delicate and small, or 'carpet Spaniels,' have exquisite nose, and will hunt truly and pleasantly, but are neither fit for a long day nor a thorny covert." With so much, therefore, to recommend them, it is to be hoped that these most beautiful of all dogs may yet regain the position they once occupied, especially as his affectionate disposition renders a "Charlie" or a Blenheim doubly dear to his owner. An instance of the importance attached to his dogs (which were presumably Toy Spaniels) by King James II. lies in the fact that once, on his escape in a boat from a sinking ship, he insisted on putting back to the wreck to save his dogs, though no room could be found on board for several sailors, who were left behind and eventually drowned.

An essential distinction between the ancient and modern type of Toy Spaniel lies in the formation of the muzzle, as well as in colour. In days gone by it is undoubtedly a fact that the short *retroussé* noses now so fashionable were things unknown; in fact, the first reference to them that we have come across is in the *Sportsman's Repository*, which we have already quoted. That some outside cross has been at one time or another resorted to in order to produce this we may be quite assured, but how it came about is another matter, and presents a difficulty in solution. For our own opinion we fancy a cross of Pug has played some important part in the change of shape in the skull of the Toy Spaniel. One thing is certain, that by reducing the length of nose, much of the animal's sense of smell must have been impaired, and it is therefore reasonable to suggest that if breeders of Toy Spaniels deliberately set to work to try and breed short-nosed dogs, they did so subsequently to the variety being withdrawn from an active participation in field sports.

The subject of colour is a different one entirely, and we can only suppose when discussing the merits of the King Charles that the partial disappearance of the black-tan-and-white dog, is the result of neglect, and not of any fixed determination on the part of admirers of the breed to exterminate a colour which is to many tastes the most beautiful Spaniel colour we have. That white is a perfectly legitimate colour in a King Charles Spaniel, a reference to old paintings will prove, and we are glad to find the authorities at some of our shows instituting a class for King Charles other than black-and-tan. Here (unfortunately we think) red dogs are allowed to compete at the present time, but we are of opinion that the proper place for the latter under any circumstances is the Blenheim class; and a class for Blenheims other than red-and-white would, we believe, soon be well filled with entries. There is not the slightest desire on our part to

COLOURS OF TOY SPANIELS.

under-rate the beauty or value of a red Spaniel, but we are profoundly of the opinion that red is essentially a Blenheim colour, and one which has no right to be seen in a King Charles, whose colour should be either black-and-tan, or black-tan-and-white. As we have before remarked, the introduction of white most certainly used to be considered legitimate in the case of Toy Spaniels; and no unprejudiced person who sees such beautiful specimens as Miss Violet Cameron's Conrad, and Mrs. Russell Earp's Tweedledee, can regret that efforts are being made to restore one of the most lovely varieties of colour which ever belonged to A decided use to which the red dogs have been put is to improve the colour dogs. of the tan markings in the black-and-tan dogs. This would either inevitably get paler (or to use a technical term, more "clayey") in colour than the "warm" or rich-shaded tan breeders like to see in them; or, in the second instance, the tan markings would disappear altogether, and the dogs would become totally black, which would naturally be an eyesore to their admirers. As a matter of fact, we know positively that many of our reputedly best and certainly most successful strains have been crossed with each other to such an extent, that more than one mother has been known to produce red-and-white and blackand-tans at one birth. In the face of such facts, under the present circumstances we do not think sufficient care can be taken by supporters of the breed to keep their strains pure; as sure and certain evil will be wrought in the present fashionable colours if care is not taken to breed for colour and markings. This, if no market can be found for black-tan-and-white Spaniels, must necessarily prove of the greatest injury to all the other colours, as the propagation of a variety without pecuniary support from the outside public is an enterprise which few breeders care to embark upon.

Whilst on the subject of breeding for colour, the following practical remarks of Mr. Joseph Nave, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, who is well known as a breeder and authority on Toy Spaniels, will be read with interest :--

"The colour of King Charles most liked now is black-and-tan, but there are a great many all tan (red), which in my experience arises from breeding from White-and-red Blenheim bitches with black-and-tan King Charles. I have a black-and-tan King Charles dog from parents of the same colour; thinking to obtain black-white-and-tan puppies, I put him to a red-andwhite Blenheim bitch, and the result was a litter of four, all tan. I kept one of the red bitches, and put a black-and-tan King Charles dog to her, and the result was five black-andtan puppies, with very bright tan. Therefore, I have come to the conclusion, if you want to breed puppies black with very bright tan, it is best to breed from a red bitch; but I have experienced that, if you keep breeding and in-breeding always from black-and-tan parents, the tan will gradually get out of them, and you may get several puppies all black, without any tan; and all-black King Charles are not liked at all. The original King Charles were blackand-white, with long noses, and very long ears. Through the introduction of the black-andtan Japanese Spaniel-of which I know at present a very fine specimen, brought over by Sir John Hay-black-and-tan King Charles were produced; but through the Japanese they have lost a great deal in the length of ears, and gained the high skull, short nose, and underhung, which is the nature of the Japanese. The present tendency of King Charles is for long noses again, and larger ears; and we should be very glad to see a fresh importation of Japanese Spaniels, so as to revive the short nose again. It is my firm opinion that the origin of the present Pug dog is nothing but the common English fawn-coloured smooth-coated Terrier bitch crossed with a little jet-black Chinese Terrier, of which I also have seen some-they have the

short nose and high head, and very curly tails. King Charles should not be too small, and need not weigh less than 10 lb.; if they are much smaller they lose many of the properties and the beautiful coats of the breed."

We are gratified to find that so great an authority as Mr. Joseph Nave coincides with our views on the Pug cross. Our conclusions were arrived at, singularly enough, without any previous conversation, and by his support of our theory we feel considerably fortified in it; and, as an experiment, intend to try a Japanese Pug cross with a Toy Spaniel on the earliest opportunity. Mr. Nave has, however, hit the nail on the head when he alludes to this cross being likely to decrease the length of ear in the King Charles or Blenheim, and we candidly admit that on this point we see breakers ahead which will be difficult to weather in safety. Nevertheless there is now such a tendency to long snipy muzzles, that something should be done to prevent these breeds degenerating into nondescripts which do not fairly represent either the ancient or modern type of Toy Spaniel.

The two illustrations appended of the older types most strongly support this view of the case. The reader's attention cannot fail to be directed to the, at present, uncommon combination of long muzzles and long ears in the smaller illustration, which is taken from *Icones Animalium*, by J. F. Riedel. The Spaniels here portrayed are in our opinion intended to be black-tan-and-white King Charles, though the absence of descriptive letterpress, and the inferior engraving of that period render this conviction more or less a matter of conjecture. The large full-page engraving is drawn from two German dogs of the present day, but is a perfect representation of the longer muzzle and magnificent ears which were at an earlier date fashionable in England, and are very likely to be preferred by most who do not live in the artificial atmosphere of shows.

We are also favoured with the following notes on the Blenheim from Mr. James W. Berrie, of Lower Tooting, Surrey, which we have much pleasure in reproducing :---

"Next to the old English Bulldog, of which Englishmen may so justly be proud, the Blenheim stands pre-eminently first. This exquisitely beautiful little dog should have a long silky coat of the pure 'ruby and pearl' colour, and it should possess all the distinguishing characteristics of the King Charles Spaniel, which was so called because of the esteem in which it was held by the 'Merry Monarch.'

"The modern Blenheim, from a phrenological point of view, possesses properties and organs more nearly resembling the human head than any other kind of dog. He has Individuality, Eventuality, Comparison, and Causality, very largely developed. That the Blenheim possesses Individuality is obvious to all who have studied the breed and character of the dog: he knows at a glance the *canine lover*, and is friendly in a moment; while the *dog hater* may try his best to win his favour in vain.

"It is generally admitted that the dog has memory, but this quality is most singularly developed in the Blenheim; he having been known to remember some of the most trivial circumstances in his history, which have long escaped the mind of his master. Many instances could be given to corroborate this statement, but one will suffice. Little Blossom" (one of Mrs. Berrie's pets) "was visiting a friend in the country with my wife, and on one occasion she killed a shrew, which my wife took from her and placed in a hole in the wall of a barn, quite out of her reach. Blossom did her best to get it by 'sitting up' and barking for it, but at last gave it up in despair. Years after, when she went to the





same place, she ran to the old barn, and, putting her fore-feet against the wall, she did her utmost to get up to have a peep at the place where the dead shrew had been laid six years before.

"Generosity is another property natural to the Blenheim. I have known instances where one has kept another supplied with food, when he was tied up and unable to obtain it for himself. This happened more than once with two puppies of my own breeding. 'Bloom,' being a mischievous fellow, was very often imprisoned under a crate; when hungry, he had only to make a whining kind of cry, and 'Petal' (the brother) would forthwith start off and bring him bread or anything in the way of comestibles that he could find.

"The Blenheim is an exceedingly difficult breed to rear, hence the scarcity of good specimens. They are liable to brain diseases, supposed to be caused by the unusually large size of the head in comparison with the body. We find intense excitement very injurious to them when young, sometimes causing fits, which, however, rarely prove fatal unless the subject is exceedingly delicate.

"The best food for rearing puppies (we think) is a little finely-minced meat, with plenty of soaked bread twice a day, alternated with a little Swiss milk and bread.

POINTS OF A BLENHEIM.

"The Under-jaw should be wide between the tusks, and well turned up; undershot, but not to show teeth.

The Nose should be black, wide and deep, and as short as possible, almost in a line with the eyes; the nostrils being large and open.

"The 'stop' is wide, and as deep as in a fine Bull-dog, but the nose should not recede as in that animal.

"Eyes as large as possible, perfectly black, wide apart, and at right angles with the line of the face. Weeping at the corners is owing to a defect in the lachrymal duct.

"Head should be very large and round, with a dome-like appearance at the top. The forehead should project well over the eyes, so as almost to touch the nose.

"Ears as long as possible, not curly; about eight inches in length from where they join the head. They must be low down on the side of the head, almost on a line with the ears.

"Shape.—Thick-set and cobby; chest deep and wide; strong legs; short back; arched neck. Tail carried gaily, but not over the back; it should be almost on a line with the back. Well cut up from chest to loin; the latter should be strong and as sturdy as possible.

"Colour should on no account be whole, but rich ruby red and pure pearly white. The white should form the ground, and the red should be in detached spots scattered over the body. The fore-legs and nose should be slightly 'ticked.' The ears and cheeks should be red, and a blaze of white up the forehead, in the centre of which should be a spot of red as large as a sixpence, called 'the spot.' The best marked dogs are those with well-defined red markings on the sides and back, and a 'splash' at the root of the tail. Some few good specimens are cinnamon and white, but this is not a desirable colour.

" Coat should be fine, silky, long, and as free from curl and mixture as possible.

"The Chest, Feet, and Tail should be well feathered, and also the back of the legs.

" Weight from six to twelve pounds, but the best specimens are from eight to ten pounds.

"The *Fcet* should be small and well-knit together, with the toes strong and well made; 22 from between the toes should grow tufts of hair like feathers, giving the animal the appearance of walking on mats."

Amongst the most conspicuous breeders and owners who are in possession of the correct type of King Charles and Blenheims, the names of Mrs. Forder of Bow, Mrs. J. W. Berrie of Lower Tooting, and Mr. Joseph Nave of Henrietta Street, are most prominent. Mrs. Berrie certainly confines her attention to Blenheims only, but her collection, as a collection, is without a rival. The Earl and Bawbee are her two best dogs as we write; but owing to the experience and sound practical judgment of her husband (Mr. James W. Berrie) being so often of late called into requisition in the capacity of judge at the principal shows, only very few opportunities are offered her for exhibiting her pets. Mrs. Forder, on the other hand, is practically at the top of the tree with black-and-tan King Charles, her Young Jumbo being deservedly the present champion. The Bow kennel, however, has also some grand Blenheims, and of late years Mrs. Forder has been wonderfully successful with Lizzie, albeit that to some minds her markings were too pale in colour. At present one of the best youngsters out also hails from Mrs. Forder's stud: this is Bo-Peep, who will, we think, prove the bright particular star in the Blenheim world for some time to come. Mr. Nave is a breeder of both varieties, but his splendidly-shaped dog Covent Garden Charlie is too large in stature to please every judge, and this has prevented his winning at many shows. Mrs. M. A. Forster of Bradford does a great deal of winning in the North of England by the assistance of the Blenheim Duke of Bow, who is a purchase from Mrs. Forder's kennel; and Mrs. Bligh Monk, of Coley Park near Reading, has also had some good specimens. A few years back Miss Dawson, of Coldharbour Lane, London, was almost invincible with Old Jumbo, but age and infirmity at length drove the grand little dog off the bench; and on his deposition Young Jumbo sprang at once into first place. Mr. S. A. Julius, of Hastings, too, has several excellent Blenheims, many of his belonging to the old or long-faced, and now unfashionable, type. The above are our principal and most successful exhibitors, but there are many choice collections, and excellent, but solitary, specimens of Toy Spaniels which never appear in public, though it is to be hoped that in the interest of the breeds their owners will support the classes more substantially than they do at present. There are some beautiful specimens, too, of that most lovely of all colours, the black-tanand-white King Charles, to be met with, but the key of the position in this variety is held by Miss Violet Cameron with her Conrad-one of the best-shaped dogs out-and Mrs. Russell Earp with Tweedledee.

Before proceeding to give the points of a Toy Spaniel, we may remark that it is an invariable rule to dock their tails—that is, to cut them about four inches short. Our ideas on the breed are as follows :—

The *Skull* of a Toy Spaniel should be round, with a short, upturned muzzle, and a decided "stop," or indentation, between the eyes.

The *Muzzle* must be short and rather square-shaped, with a black nose well turned back towards the skull.

The *Lycs* must, as in the Bulldog, be wide apart, and very full and prominent-dark in colour and lustrous.

The *Ears*, a most important feature in a Toy Spaniel, must be set on rather low and hang perfectly flat to the sides of the head. In addition to their own considerable length, they are provided with long silken hair, which in some specimens almost trails on the ground.

The Nose must be black.

The Body is cloddy and compact.

The Legs inclined to be short, and with the backs well coated with long silky hair, or "feather" as it is termed.

Feet, large and well covered with hair.

The Coat in both breeds must be long and silky; without curl, which is a fault.

Size, about 10 pounds, or a little more in a King Charles; but the Blenheims weigh rather less. It is not, therefore, desirable to have the King Charles much under 10 pounds weight.

Colour.—In the King Charles: black-and-tan or black-tan-and-white. Blenheims: red-andwhite. In this breed a red spot on the forehead is esteemed a decided characteristic, and should always be looked for in good specimens, as its absence is a blemish.

General appearance is that of an intelligent nimble little dog, which combines activity with a daintiness peculiar to good breeding and aristocratic connections.

The dogs we have chosen to illustrate the breed in all four colours are—for the blackand-tan King Charles, Mr. Joseph Nave's Covent Garden Charlie, whose sire is Young Jumbo and dam Daisy—Age, 2 years and 9 months; weight, 16 lbs.: he measures from nose to stop, three-quarters of an inch; from stop to occiput, 4 inches; length of back, 14 inches; girth of muzzle, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth of skull, 13 inches; girth of neck, 12 inches; girth round brisket, 18 inches; girth round shoulders, 18 inches; girth of loins, 15 inches; girth round forearm, 5 inches; girth round pastern, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height at shoulder, 15 inches; height at elbows, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height at loins, 14 inches; length of ears from tip to tip, 22 inches; feather on fore-legs, 6 inches.

In the black-tan-and-white King Charles, Miss Violet Cameron's Conrad, age about three years. His breeder and pedigree are unknown, as Conrad was purchased, when quite a puppy, from a dealer in London who had no certain pedigree with him. He is an own brother to Mrs. Russell Earp's well-known Tweedledee, and in fact the whole litter was one of unusual merit. Conrad measures:—From nose to stop, three-quarters of an inch; stop to occipital bone, 4 inches; length of back, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth of muzzle, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth of skull, 11 inches; girth of neck, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth round brisket, 17 inches; girth round shoulders, 15 inches; girth round loins, $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches; girth of forearin, 4 inches; girth round pastern, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; height at shoulder, 10 inches; height at elbow, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height at loins, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

For the red Spaniel, Mr. Joseph Nave's Sepperl by Hillus out of the owner's Fanny (both black-and-tans). He is six years old, and weighs 15 lb.; measuring from nose to stop, 1 inch; from stop to occiput, 5 inches; length of back, 16 inches; girth of muzzle, 7 inches; girth of skull, 13 inches; girth of neck, 12 inches; girth of brisket, 18 inches; girth round chest, 18 inches; girth of loins, 15 inches; girth of forearm, 5 inches; girth of pastern, 4 inches; height at shoulder, 15 inches; height at elbow, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height at loins, 14 inches.

And for the red-and-white Blenheim, Mrs. J. W. Berric's Bawbee, who is four years old, and weighs 10 lb. 2 oz. Bawbee measures from nose to stop, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; from stop to occiput, 4 inches; length of back, 10 inches; girth of muzzle, 6 inches; girth of skull, 11½ inches; girth of neck, 12 inches; girth round brisket, 19 inches; girth round shoulders, 19 inches; girth of loins, 12½ inches; girth of forearm, 4½ inches; girth of pastern, 3 inches; height at shoulder, 12 inches; height at elbow, 5¾ inches; height at loins, 10½ inches.

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SCALE OF POINTS FOR JUDGING TOV SPANIELS.

						Value.
Skull						 5
Stop and squareness of jaw						 5
Shortness of face						 5
Ears						 5
Body and legs				•••		 5
Coat, including colour						 15
. Size						 5
General appearance		•••				 5
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Before leaving these beautiful and engaging breeds, we must once more impress upon our readers the importance of frequently brushing their coats with a not too hard "balloon" brush, such as recommended in Chapter XXI. If the blood becomes heated too, which will soon be discovered by the dog scratching, a course of sulphur and magnesia, as recommended on page 20, should be at once prescribed, but the doses must not be too strong, or the constitution of the Spaniel may be injured by them.

