

American Women Fanciers of Thoroughbred Dogs Become Active

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—The cult of the thoroughbred dog maintains its hosts of feminine devotees throughout the United States, and they are now only exceeded in number by the women dog fanciers of Great Britain. It is harder for American women than their British sisters to follow the cult, for in this country, aside from field dogs and hounds, the contempt for all but dogs of pedigree and fine points is not an inherited one.

Here, both with the rich and the poor, the family pet is usually a mongrel. It is even said that the pet of President Roosevelt's household is a bulldog of sorts. In Great Britain poor men and rich, lords and peasants, will tolerate only a dog of distinct type and breeding.

time the little dogs had few friends. There is now a class for toy terriers at most of the shows, but the entries seldom exceed six or eight.

Once past the troubles of puppyhood the toy terriers are hardy and easy to care for. One of three and a half pounds exhibited recently was a perfect miniature dog and valued at \$1,500, or about \$500 a pound. The profit is as quick as it is placid mining and may offset the troubles and fuss of caring for such canine midgies.

Women own big dogs as well as small, and so often that every page of the catalogue of a big city show bristles with their names. Great Danes, St. Bernards, bulldogs, bull terriers, Russian wolfhounds, greyhounds and bloodhounds are



MRS. REGINALD VANDERVOORT AND HER FRENCH BULLDOG



MISS ANNIE NOLAN WITH TOY BOSTON TERRIER



MRS. ARTHUR BORDIN AND BULL TERRIERS



MRS. C. M. LUNT WITH HER COLLIES.



MRS. J. B. THOMAS, MRS. HASTINGS ARNOLD AND MISS HITCHCOCK WITH RUSSIAN WOLFHOUNDS



MRS. H. B. STEELE AND BULL TERRIERS



MRS. J. L. KERNOCHAN WITH IRISH TERRIERS

Royalty sets the example, and, while many breeds have been identified with certain families, such as the Blenheim spaniel, many more breeds reach their perfection through the care given them by miners, millhands or village tradesmen and public house keepers.

Yet, thanks to the bench shows, knowledge of the many breeds and varieties of good dogs is now general throughout the United States. The neighborhood shows, such as that at Astor Park last week and those to be held shortly at Sheepshead Bay and Cedarhurst, do much to bring out new brothers and sisters of the fancy.

American women who are amateur fanciers may be grouped in two broad divisions—the very wealthy, who have managers for their kennels, and the less wealthy, who, if possible, seek to make their kennels bring in profit each season. Some of the latter will train a friend's dogs for a show or board dogs for pay, and they are as keen on the points of the dog breeding and fixing up for a show as any professional.

They are members of the Women's Kennel Association and of a specialty club or two, and while willing to earn money through their kennels, it must be said that genuine fondness for dogs is the primary impulse to make them fanciers. Lacking this feeling, no woman may succeed in the occupation, for it is a very arduous one.

Perhaps the toy black and tan dogs are the hardest to raise with success, for they are fragile and nervous creatures. In the flush times for New York sporting men, succeeding the city and the country, the fashion with gamblers and men about town. They often carried the tiny pets about in the pockets of their overcoats.

The fashion had waned before the West-

minster Kennel club held its first show, some twenty-odd years ago, and for a all benched by women, and although they seldom use them in the field, there are several noted kennels of pointers and setters maintained by women. The two strongest exhibitors of sporting spaniels are women.

In the management of a kennel of large dogs the owner does not come so frequently into personal contact with the dogs as with a string of pet or toy breeds or the active fox, Irish or Scottish terriers. For big dogs there must be a kennel planned on the lines of a stable paddock, with a manager and several helpers. Yet there are exceptions to this rule.

A man and his wife, both enthusiastic amateurs, have raised some very fine bulldogs with no other kennel than some rooms in their Flatbush home. They began with a single dog and they have had the good luck to raise two or three litters that have contained winners of blue ribbons. This sort of beginning is within the means of every person who owns a detached house, for while it has been attempted with success in the city in houses with the ordinary back yard, it is a great deal of trouble to raise big dogs in cramped quarters.

But in the country or in the suburbs a woman of enterprise may readily begin with one or two brood bitches as the mistress of a kennel. It is not a path of roses to learn how to make money with a kennel, large or small. A woman who undertakes the task has as much to learn as a girl who first sets up housekeeping.

But there is this to be said for a small kennel: the big dogs thrive best that are kept in or about private houses. Confinement in a kennel is as depressing to most breeds as jail is to a man. Consequently the large kennels often board out their young dogs, and pay the farmers for miles around to care for their puppies.

Toy spaniels are very popular with women and there are few breeds that make better returns to a small kennel. Formerly named Blenheim, King and Prince Charles and Ruby spaniels, they are now subdivisions of black and tan, orange and white, tricolor and red.

To breed them in a latterly in one way, for all four sorts may be worn in the same litter. Head and coat are the chief points, and, especially if well exercised daily in the country, they are not too troublesome to rear. Women are now showing very high class toy spaniels, and some who have gone to England have won prizes there.

All that has been said about these dogs applies also to Yorkshire terriers, Japanese spaniels, Pomeranians and all toy dogs. Coat is the great feature with "Poms," and to gain the proper length and fluffiness each must be brushed for an hour or so daily. They are bringing very good prices classed as English toy spaniels, with just now, and this will repay the kennel mistress for the trouble she takes if a profit is sought.

To be a specialist in a breed is the best way to succeed with a kennel, especially if the owner has a genuine liking for it. To take up a new breed, such as the Papijions, Brussels, Griffons or Pekinese spaniels, offers attractions in this way, but it would be probably an expensive matter to get together the stock to breed from. Black pugs, too, although they have been benched here for six or seven years, still remain

novelties and are to be reckoned among the canine curios.

Toy bull terriers, which reproduce every point of their big cousins, but must weigh not over twelve pounds when full grown, have several devoted feminine upholders and the breed makes a very strong exhibit at our shows. There is a toy Boston terrier of the same weight limit, which is the most costly of all small dogs now, and a toy Schipperke, which must be under eight pounds is new here.

The toy or midsize English bulldogs are scarce now and owe their decline to the popularity of the more active and companionable French bulldog, which is now in the height of fashion. Importations of the blue ribbons before the judges.

Chow-chows, from China, and Samoyeds, the North Russian sleigh dogs, both owe their introduction to America to women. The best kennel of French poodles in the country is kept by two young women on Long Island.

The exclusive American breed, the Boston terriers, are exhibited with great success by women in the large as well as the toy sorts. They are difficult to breed true to the best type, but the good ones sell at night when mere puppies for \$1,000 and upward.

To close the enumeration of breeds in which the American kennel mistresses vie with the men in the quality of their exhibits the terriers must be mentioned. The best fox terriers are bred at a woman's kennels, and one of her dogs, Hands Up, was a winner when sent to England. In Irish, Scotch, Welch and even the big Airedales women are at the top of the list as exhibitors.

All this goes to reveal that the appreciation of the thoroughbred dog, big or toy, is sincere with the American women. If followed up it will open several new occupations for women as wage earners, a thought that should console the pessimists who sneer and growl whenever they see a pet dog lolling on the cushions of a carriage or automobile.

The kennel maid is a new vocation in England, but the occupation, or one akin

to it, is not new here. No American M. F. H. has yet entrusted his hounds to the care of a woman, but it is a frequent occurrence for the show dogs to be left in care of the housekeeper or a maid when the mistress is traveling. Many, however, take their pet dogs along with them, if a woman companion or a maid to take special care of them is employed.

The headman of a kennel of big dogs, or to reverse the case, of a big fennel of dogs, would not brook the interference of a kennelmaid in the details of management. These men, most of whom come from England, earn from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a year, and they may be presumed to know their business. But none of them would or could object to a woman under engagement as business manager in the absence of the owner.

Women who have kennels often keep dogs on board for their friends, while others receive a special payment, which is sometimes based on the winnings, to prepare a friend's dogs for the show circuit. Men who handle a string of dogs on the show circuits—some take around from twenty to fifty of different breeds—receive expenses, a stated salary and one-half or more of the dog's winnings from each of their patrons.

The patron saves the time and cost of traveling and the fuss of preparing the dog and of showing it. When the dog becomes a champion of record it is of enhanced value for the stud or to sell. There might be an opening for women to travel the circuit to handle a string of small or toy dogs.

Several women make a business of mak-

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Page Three.)

In climbing up there are about 200 courses and the blocks vary in height from two to five feet. It is estimated that the great pyramid contains, all told, almost 80,000,000 cubic feet of limestone. This is so much that if it could be split into flags, four inches thick, it would furnish enough to make a pavement two feet wide around the globe.

A Quarry for Ages.

When Cheops completed this great structure he coated the outside with limestone and granite slabs. The sides were as smooth as glass; they met in a point at the top and the length of each side was eighteen feet longer than it is now. The pyramid was a great deal higher, and as the bright sun played upon its polished surface it must have formed a magnificent sight.

The outside coating has been long since torn away. Throughout the ages the people of the Nile valley have been getting their building stone from it. Many of the mosques of Cairo contain pieces of old Cheops and it has been a quarry of this part of the world for generation after generation these thousands of years.

As it is today when one views it from afar, the great pyramid still looks like a smooth block of stone. It is only when he comes closer that one sees that it is made of many blocks, and only when he stands beside it or attempts to climb it that he appreciates the enormous size of these blocks. The pyramid is built of yellow limestone and conglomerate. The stones are piled one on the other in regular layers. There is no cement between them, but they are chinked with a rough mortar which has withstood the weather for more than 4,000 years. I dug at some of this mortar with my knife, but could not loosen it, and went from block to block along the great structure on the side, facing the western desert, finding the mortar everywhere solid.

Not So Old After All.

And this great structure was built over 4,000 years ago. It seems a long time, but when you figure out how many lives it means it is not so old after all. Every one of us knows 100 men who have reached

forty years. Their aggregate lives, if patched together, would go back to the beginning of this great structure. In other words, if a man at 40 should have a child and that child should live to be 40 and then have a child, and the program of life should go on, it would take only 100 generations to reach to the days when the breath from the garlic and onions eaten by those 100,000 men polluted this desert air.

Indeed, the world is not old, and it is not hard to realize that those people of the past had the same troubles, the same worries and the same amusements as we. I can take you through (and not far from) Cairo upon whose walls are painted the pictures of the men of ancient Egypt. You may see them using the same farm tools that the fellahs use now. They plow, they reap and thresh. They drink wine and gorge themselves with food. In one of the tombs I saw the picture of a woman milking a cow while her daughter held the calf back by the knees to prevent it from sucking. In another painting I saw the method of cooking, and in another observed those old Egyptians stuffing live geese with food to entice their lives. They were making pale delectable grass, just as the Germans stuff geese for the same purpose today.

The Pyramid Plateaus.

Leaving the pyramid of Cheops I crossed over and took a look at the other two which form the rest of the great trio at Gizeh, and I have since been up to the plateau of Sakkara, eleven in number. Along this plateau, running up the Nile, are to be found the remains of a large number of pyramids. There are also some of the ancient Khitpols. The latter are taller in proportion to their base than the Egyptian pyramids, and they generally have a hall with sculptures facing the east to commemorate the dead.

The most of the stones of these pyramids here came from the plateau upon which they stand and from the Mokottan hills about twelve miles away on the other side of the Nile. There was an inclined plane leading to the river, and the ruts in the stone road cut out by the rammers of the sledges carrying these great blocks are still to be seen. There are pictures on some of the monuments which show how the stones were drawn on sledges by oxen and men,

ing clothing, blankets and gloves for pet dogs—the latter to keep them from scratching out their coats—and of caring in a general way for the dogs of a dozen or more city homes. They call regularly at each house and are held responsible for the good looks and health of the dogs, except in cases when a veterinarian must be called in. They are kennelmaids, in a way, although the title is a new one for their occupation.

Whether a woman begins with imported or home-bred dogs, there are many pitfalls in her path to eminence as a fancier. Not long ago a wealthy woman cabled an order to England for the purchase of two show dogs of repute in their breed.

The dogs were benched here and won blue ribbons before the discovery that the dogs she paid for had not left England, but that two others of the breed had been sent here under the names and pedigrees of the proper ones. The woman has not received satisfaction yet, although she has invoked the aid of the law. As to home-bred dogs, it is expected that a case will soon be taken up by the American Kennel club involving the sale of a dyed dog by one woman fancier to another.

Bunt even where no traps or snares are encountered, judgment in purchasing is the most important matter in starting a kennel. The safe plan would be to buy only developed dogs that are as near to perfection as possible, but the great demand for such types makes the cost prohibitive to a person of limited means.

The only resource is to buy a puppy of promise, which, when all the ills to which such creatures are subject is considered, is as risky as to buy a lottery ticket. After the start in breeding is made dozens of puppies may be raised before a champion is developed. The true fancier kills off the bad specimens early in their career, but it is said to be a feminine trait to raise the

runt to give to friends as presents.

Only after many seasons of experiments will the woman who goes it alone be qualified to train a dog for the show ring, even should she have the luck to raise a clicking good one. This means not so much the conditioning as the trimming up of the dog, and by clever handling for weeks in advance the elimination of any habits in the carriage of ears or tail, etc.

Faking is not permitted under the rules, but some of the methods of the show trainers are as peculiar as any tricks of the "Heavenly Chinese." The best thing for the novice, whether man or woman, to do is to pay an expert to look over each litter of puppies and to keep a watchful eye on the growing dogs.

Having been in the occupation for many years before us, the dogs of the British fanciers usually score over the homebreds when they meet in competition. Yet America has sent over certain fox terriers, toy spaniels, bulldogs and mastiffs that have won at English shows, while with setters, pointers and field spaniels American owners can hold their own abroad either in the field trials or at the shows. The pioneer exhibitors at the British shows included several American women. It is a bright outlook for the dog cult either as a recreation or a source of profit with American women that their energy has made them competitors at the British shows.

That they are cosmopolitan in their choice of dogs for the American kennels is also demonstrated by their purchases of spaniels in Japan, Chow Chows in China, Samoyedes in northern Russia, Papijions, poodles and French bulldogs in Paris, Great Danes and dachshunds in Holland, not to speak of the pick of English bulldogs and the terriers of the United Kingdom. And the American women do not forget their dog, the home land, the Boston terrier.

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