

OYSTERS KILLED BY STARFISH.

THE depredations of the starfish on oyster beds have been a matter of observation and record for many years. Only recently, however, has the Government been appealed to for assistance in devising remedies for the evil, and, although the impression prevails in some quarters that the Congress appropriated a sum of money for investigation and report upon this scourge of the oystermen, no funds have yet been voted for this specific object. The preliminary work done last summer in Providence River, Narragansett Bay, and Long Island Sound by the U. S. Fish Commission was paid for out of the general appropriation of the Commission. The steamer Fish Hawk, it is expected, will continue the investigation next summer after the close of the shad hatching season.

It has been stated that starfish destroy several hundred thousand dollars' worth of oysters annually. They make their appearance suddenly in countless numbers, and complete their work of devastation very quickly; a day or two may suffice for the destruction of an entire bed. Mussels and soft shell clams are greatly liked by the starfish also. We have seen a starfish devour seven medium-sized clams in a half day, and apparently in preference to oysters contained in the same aquarium, because of the greater ease in penetrating the shell of the clam. It is doubtless known to most persons that the starfish envelopes its prey with its flexible arms, suffocating it and causing the shell to open, when its stomach is projected around the animal and absorbs it at leisure.

It has been suggested that small beds of oysters might be protected by surrounding them with a shoal of mussels. In some waters, it is asserted, however, that starfish will not attack mussels. The studies of the Fish Commission staff were limited chiefly to the temperatures, densities and salinity of the water on the oyster beds affected by this enemy, and to the animals associated with the oyster, with particular reference to the conditions of their existence and thrift. The starfish cannot live in fresh water, and it is liable to destruction from the reduction of the salinity of the water by the action of heavy freshets. The only practical method of exterminating the starfish known at present is the expensive one of dredging them as now practiced by oystermen of Connecticut.

THE GRAMPUS AT KEY WEST.—The U. S. Fish Commission's schooner Grampus arrived at Key West Jan. 27, with the loss of seaman Brown. The particulars of his death are not yet known, but it is supposed that he was washed overboard. The Grampus will be engaged in the investigation of the fishing grounds in the Gulf of Mexico and the movement of food fishes. Dr. James A. Henshall will join her as naturalist in a few days. Among other things he will take especial pains to collect any of the fresh water fishes that may be accessible. Capt. D. E. Collins is now at Key West and will collect statistics of the fisheries there and elsewhere in Florida.

MR. ADOLPH NIELSEN, of Norway, is now on his way to assume charge of the fishculture work of the Province of Newfoundland. He will stop over at Gloucester, Mass., for a day or two to examine the cod hatching station on Ten Pound Island, then go at once to St. Johns. Mr. Nielsen has a very high reputation in Norway as an accomplished fishcultivist.

DR. JAMES A. HENSHALL is now in Washington receiving final instructions for his natural history work on the Grampus. He will go to Key West in a day or two. Correspondents should address him either at his Cincinnati home or care U. S. Fish Commission, Washington, D. C.

The Kennel.

FIXTURES. DOG SHOWS.

- January, last week.—Western Pennsylvania Poultry Society's Fourteenth Annual Show, Pittsburgh, Pa. C. B. Elben, Sec'y. Feb. 5 to 8, 1889.—First Annual Dog Show of the Columbus Fencers' Club at Columbus O. Elias B. Snow, Secretary. Feb. 7 to 12.—First Annual Show of the Euclid River Poultry, Dog and Pet Stock Association, at Newburg, N.Y. J. H. Drevenstedt, Secretary, Washingtonville, N. Y. Feb. 19 to 22, 1889.—Thirteenth Annual Show of the Westminster Kennel Club, New York. James Mortimer, Superintendent. Feb. 20 to March 1, 1889.—Second Annual Show of the Rensselaer Kennel Club, Troy, N. Y. Albro M. Id. Secretary. March 5 to 8, 1889.—Second Annual Dog Show of the Albany Kennel Club, at Albany, N. Y. Geo. B. Gallup, Secretary. March 12 to 15, 1889.—Second Annual Show of the Fort Schuyler Kennel Club, Utica, N. Y. James W. Duinol, President. March 25 to 29, 1889.—First Annual Dog Show of the Massachusetts Kennel Club, at Lynn, Mass. D. A. Williams, Secretary. March 19 to 22, 1889.—First Annual Show of the Rochester Kennel Club, at Rochester, N. Y. Harry Yates, Secretary. April 2 to 5, 1889.—Annual Show of the New England Kennel Club, Boston, Mass. J. W. Newman, Secretary, No. 6 Hamilton Place. April 9 to 12.—First Dog Show of the Worcester Kennel Club, at Worcester, Mass. Edward W. Doyle, Secretary. April 9 to 12, 1889.—First Annual Dog Show of the Mascoutah Kennel Club, at Chicago, Ill. John L. Lincoln, Jr., Secretary. April 16 to 19, 1889.—The Seventh Dog Show of the Philadelphia Kennel Club, at Philadelphia, Pa. Wm. C. Child, Secretary. May 22 to 25.—Pacific Kennel Club Show, San Francisco, Cal.

FIELD TRIALS.

- Nov. 4.—Third Annual Field Trials of the Indiana Kennel Club. P. T. Madison, Secretary, Indianapolis, Ind. Nov. 18.—Eleventh Annual Field Trials of the Eastern Field Trials Club, at High Point, N. C. W. A. Coster, Secretary, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

A. K. R.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE AMERICAN KENNEL REGISTER, for the registration of pedigrees, etc. (with prize lists of all shows and trials), is published every month. Entries close on the 1st. Should be in early. Entry blanks sent on receipt of stamped and addressed envelope. Registration fee (50 cents) must accompany each entry. No entries inserted unless paid in advance. Yearly subscription \$1.50. Address "American Kennel Register," P. O. Box 2832, New York. Number of entries already printed 6923.

PACIFIC COAST FIELD TRIALS.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 19.—The sixth annual field trials of the Pacific Coast Field Trial Club commenced on Monday, the 14th inst., on the grounds of Messrs. Haggin & Carr, near Bakersfield, Kern county, Cal. These gentlemen, who own a little patch of some 400,000 acres in Kern county, kindly allowed the club the privilege of running its trials on any portion of three full sections lying close to the town, and on which no shooting had been permitted during the season. The local gun club (Knights of the Trigger) had looked after all preliminary arrangements for the meeting, and everything passed off harmoniously and to the delight and pleasure of all, unless, perhaps, the few whose canine pets disappointed them. The grounds are in the center of the level San Joaquin Valley, covered with grass, light weeds and some patches of low sage brush. Birds were found without much trouble, except on Wednesday, when some poor ground was struck. All of the work was witnessed by the spectators, who followed the handlers and judges in carriages, buggies and on horseback.

The attendance was quite large, considering that most of the visitors had to travel from 300 to 400 miles. Prominent among the visiting sportsmen were the following named: J. G. Edwards, of Oakland, president of the club; G. T. Allender, Watsonville; T. N. Aldrich, Marysville; H. H. Briggs, of the *Breeder and Sportsman*; J. M. Barney, Dutch Flat; J. M. Bassford and G. W. Bassford, Vacaville; H. Boyd, San Francisco; E. W. Briggs, Santa Clara; H. C. Chipman, Sacramento; J. S. Dunham, Stockton; Hon. W. W. Foote, San Francisco; H. Gerber and J. Gerber, Sacramento; J. G. Gates, Vacaville; Alva Green, Galesburg, Ill.; W. H. Harris, Oakland; H. A. Hubbard, Oakland; S. D. Meriweather, Ventura; W. DeMott, Stockton; Judge C. N. Post, Sacramento; Senator J. T. Pindar, San Francisco; L. J. Rose, Jr., Ventura; William Schreiber, San Francisco; Judge P. J. Shafter, Point Reyes; P. M. Scott, Oakland; W. Thomas, Chico; E. A. Taft, Truckee; R. T. Vandevort, Pasadena; F. A. Watson, Colusa; M. D. Walter, Galt; N. E. White, of the *Sacramento Record-Union*.

Besides those coming from distant portions of the State, many of the citizens of Bakersfield turned out each day to witness the trials. The judges were: R. T. Vandevort, P. J. Shafter and I. N. Aldrich, and their decisions seemed to meet with general approval.

At the annual business meeting of the club the following new members were elected: J. S. Dunham, of Stockton; R. E. Auerbach, of Oakland; H. L. Borgwardt and I. L. Miller, of Bakersfield; R. Seymour, of Sumner; S. D. Meriweather, of Ventura, and Wm. Thomas, of Butte. Propositions to increase the amounts of the initiation fee and annual dues, and to retain 20 per cent. of the purses for club expenses, were voted down. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President (third term), J. C. Edwards; First Vice-President, J. M. Barney; Second Vice-President, L. J. Rose, Jr.; Secretary and Treasurer, H. H. Briggs; Executive Committee, J. S. Dunham, Wm. Schreiber, Hon. D. M. Pyle, J. M. Bassford, Jr., and Judge C. N. Post. A vote of thanks was tendered the Knights of the Trigger and other citizens of Bakersfield for their unremitting attentions and efforts to make the occasion one of enjoyment to their guests. It was decided to hold the next annual trials on the same ground, to commence on the third Monday in January, 1890.

The Derby nominations numbered twenty-four, but some of the puppies failed to come up to their owner's fond expectations, many others fell victims to the destroyer, distemper, and others were sold to parties who had not yet learned of the advantage to be gained by field trial competition. So the number of starters dwindled to five. The trials developed at least one phenomenal piece of dog flesh in J. E. Watson's pointer puppy Black Joe. He was a veritable "dark horse," and literally walked over the rest of the menagerie. There was considerable talk about his alleged obscurity of breeding and age. Some said he was picked up on the streets of San Francisco; others declared that he would never pass his sixth year again, and one story was that he came as an unknown on some ship from England. His handler declared that the owner of the dog had written him that he was whelped in February, 1887. At all events he is a wonder. He is of medium size, and jet black. His body is light, but his running is strong and speedy and his movements lithe and graceful. His head is not of classic mould by any means, but its thickness seems to indicate an extra quantity of brains. On point he is a perfect picture of the typical, high-strung pointer. He won the Derby from Bassford's true-nosed, industrious little pointer bitch Lottie B., and in the All-Aged Stake he was an easy winner. Whatever his age or breeding may be, he is a grand dog, and if a "mongrel," as some declare, it would not be to the disadvantage of some of the blue-blooded stock of the country if a little of his quality of mongrel blood could be infused into it. But there is every evidence that the dog is of excellent breeding and purity of lineage, even though his present owner knows nothing of his history, which, however, is not a very likely supposition.

On nearly every day of the trials Mr. C. A. Nelson, a local photographer, followed the dogs in the field, and secured a number of excellent pictures of the dogs, handlers and spectators. Later Mr. Boyd, whose animal pictures in the *Breeder and Sportsman* and other publications have attracted much attention, came from San Francisco (nearly 400 miles), and with his field camera caught a large number of pictures of the dogs when pointing and backing. Some copies are promised for the FOREST AND STREAM.

The drawing of the Derby entries took place on Sunday night, and resulted as follows:

THE DERBY.

- BLACK JOE (Jas. E. Watson), black pointer dog (said to have been bred by Pape), against PRIDE (Albert Perle), black white and tan English setter dog (Nixie—Pearl Laverack). LADDIE (William Schreiber), lemon and white pointer dog (Tom Pinch—Lassie), against LOTTIE B. (George W. Bassford), liver and white pointer bitch (Professor—Gracie Bow). NESTOR (William Schreiber), lemon and white pointer dog (Gladstone—Forest Queen), a bye.

The rain which commenced falling on Sunday afternoon continued during the night, but ceased shortly after daylight. The ground, however, was quite wet, and the starting of the Derby was deferred until afternoon. The party left town about half past two o'clock P. M., and reached the grounds a little after two o'clock.

First Series.

BLACK JOE AND PRIDE.

The first brace was started at 2:30. Joe was handled by George T. Allender, and Pride by M. D. Walter. Within a few hundred yards of where they were started the dogs found birds. Joe displayed excellent ranging qualities and speed, carried his head well up, and altogether showed excellent style. Pride did not range so wide, and ran with a low head as if seeking foot scent. He was fast enough, but lacked the dash and style of his competitor. Soon after coming upon the birds Pride dropped to a point in a low swale covered with grass and a sparse growth of sage brush. Walter finished and killed; both dogs steady to wing and shot. Pride retrieved to order in good fashion. The dogs were sent on through the sage weeds, and going over a little ridge both passed some close-lying birds in the thick, low grass. Joe soon pointed handsomely, and Pride being brought up flushed a cottontail. Joe pointed again soon after, but no bird was found, the quail being evidently on the run. Going up a low swale some birds got up ahead of Joe, who soon afterward made a very good point in the edge of the grass, the bird flushing as the party moved up. Joe made several points in the next few minutes, Pride doing comparatively little work. At 3:10 the judges ordered the dogs up, and awarded the heat to Joe.

LADDIE AND LOTTIE B.

This brace was put down on the same ground at 3:35, the former handled by Allender and the latter by her owner. The heat can be briefly described. Laddie is a high, up-standing dog, of great dash, speed and style, and from the way he started off looked for all the world like a winner. Lottie, a high-strung little bitch, did not at first range widely, although she was speedy and covered her ground closely. It was some minutes before the birds were found, when a covey of perhaps a hundred were seen skulking off over some smooth ground toward a patch of light brush.

The dogs were halted, and a couple of horsemen dashed in among the birds and scattered them. Then the dogs were sent on, and some very handsome work was done by Lottie. Time and again she pointed in grand style, and birds were invariably found in front of her, and Laddie continued to range in his magnificent style, but seemed to have little idea of hunting quails. On one occasion Lottie had a bird pinned in the grass. Laddie ran up and put up a hare within a few feet of the bitch, but the latter held her point, and her handler put up and killed the quail. Both dogs broke shot, Lottie retrieving the bird. Lottie made eight points, and toward the close of the heat was increasing her speed and range. At 4 o'clock the dogs were ordered up and Lottie was declared the winner. All who saw the work done in this heat were loud in their expressions of admiration of the winner, and the owner of the beaten dog declared that he was well repaid for his journey of 300 miles by witnessing the work done by her. She had had but a few weeks' real work on birds, and is inclined to be unsteady to shot, but another season's experience will doubtless cure this defect, and then her owner need not fear to run her in any company. This ended the first series, Nestor having a bye.

Second Series.

Tuesday morning opened cloudy and cool, but by the time the cavalcade reached the grounds the sun had come out and the remainder of the day was warm and comfortable.

LOTTIE B. AND NESTOR.

The first brace put down was Lottie B. and Nestor, pointers. Lottie was handled by her owner, Mr. Geo. Bassford, and Nestor by his breaker, Mr. Allender. The dogs were put down at 10:25. Nestor showed great speed and wide ranging qualities, and his stylish manner of carrying himself elicited general admiration. He is a lemon and white dog imported from Scotland by Wm. Schreiber, his present owner. Lottie showed more speed than on the preceding day, and ranged out somewhat better. As usual, she worked her ground more thoroughly than the dogs that had been pitted against her, and while Nestor was far away seeking coveys she was getting in her work on scattered and hard-lying birds. A few minutes after being turned loose the dogs found birds, but the ground was still wet, and the quails at first evinced little disposition to lie well. Lottie got in among them and made several points, but they did not wait long for her. Nestor put up several and generally dropped to wing. The birds seemed to be everywhere. Several points were made by each in rapid succession in the low sage-weed and grass, and to the spectators it looked like a pretty close heat, but Nestor soon broke after a hare, refused to obey the whistle, and indulged in a good long chase. As he came up Lottie had pinned some birds and Nestor dropped to back. Bassford flushed, shot and missed; both dogs steady to wing and shot. Going up a low ridge Nestor pointed and Lottie backed some 50yds. away. The bird ran and the dogs soon moved on. Several birds got up before Nestor, who soon pointed again. Lottie backed handsomely as before, and again the birds got tired waiting and ran away in the high weeds. Considerable ground was then covered without finding birds, when Lottie pointed one in a bunch of scrub willow. Nestor had the best of the business so far as range, speed and style were concerned, but Lottie outranked him in nose, staunchness, obedience and backing qualities, and these won her the heat. At 11:30 the dogs were ordered up.

Final for First Place.

BLACK JOE AND LOTTIE B.

At 11:50 Black Joe, handled by Mr. Allender, and Lottie B., handled by Mr. Bassford, were started off to decide first place. The style of both dogs has already been described. Joe had the advantage in range and speed, and although Lottie did some very nice work on scattered birds, her sable competitor proved too much for her, although according to many private score cards she had a little the best of it. The dogs were worked twenty minutes, Lottie scoring one point, when a halt was made for lunch. At the expiration of an hour they were turned loose again, and Joe soon pointed, but moved on to the left. Lottie came up and pointed a bird a few yards from where Joe broke his point, and her handler put up the bird. After covering much ground without finding birds a covey was flushed in a swale, and the birds scattered out through the grass. Joe soon swung to a magnificent point near some bunch grass, from which three birds were put up. It was a pretty piece of work, and being in open ground was witnessed and admired by the large party of spectators. Joe afterward roaded up some birds, but later on both he and Lottie made several creditable points. At 1:55 the dogs were ordered up and the heat and first money awarded to Joe.

Final for Second Place.

LOTTIE AND PRIDE.

At 2:15 Lottie was put down against the English setter Pride to contest for second place. The former was handled by her owner and the latter by Walter. This was Lottie's third successive heat, and her speed and range increased the longer she ran. Pride was about her equal in range, but had less style and did not quarter his ground as thoroughly as she did. Each made several points, which the other honored. Birds were not found as readily as in former heats, and many acres were drawn blank. Toward the close of the heat, however, a couple of coveys were found, and Lottie doing some nice work settled the business. At 3:30 the dogs were ordered up, and the heat and second place awarded to Lottie.

Final for Third Place.

NESTOR AND PRIDE.

These dogs were put down at 3:45, handled respectively by Allender and Walter. Nestor had the best of it in every way, outranging and outpointing Pride, and at 4:30 the work was ended by the judges declaring in his favor. Following is the summary:

First Series.

Black Joe beat Pride. Lottie B. beat Laddie. Nestor a bye.

Second Series.

Lottie B. beat Nestor. Black Joe a bye.

Final for First Place.

Black Joe beat Lottie B. and won first prize.

Final for Second Place.

Lottie B. beat Pride and won second prize.

Final for Third Place.

Nestor beat Pride and won third prize.

ALL-AGED STAKE.

On Tuesday evening the dogs in the All-Aged Stake were drawn. The number of starters was about half of what was expected, and although there were upward of fifteen dogs on hand but ten were entered. The drawing resulted as follows:

ROYAL DUKE II. (J. G. Edwards), black, white and tan English setter dog (Regent—Dolly), against

SIROCCO (California Kennels), orange belton English setter dog (Sportsman—Sweetheart).

DICK (W. W. Foote), black, white and tan English setter dog (Royal Duke II.—Bess),