

PET DOGS, AND HOW TO TRAIN THEM.

By "A MISSUS."



It is certain that among the many thousands of readers of the "G. O. P." some of them have, at some time, either bought or received a puppy as a gift. Having bought, reared and sold a great many myself, and having in some cases received news of the subsequent careers of those that I had sold, few things have surprised me more than the amount of ignorance as to the nature or needs of the "friend of man."

Of course, many "girls" know as much as or more than I can tell them, or

their experience may differ from mine. It is to the "girls" who do not know anything or only a little on the subject of the training and keeping of pet dogs that I would offer these notes, which are the fruits of long experience.

Here let me say that of the larger breeds, many of which are now recognised as pet dogs, I know nothing. Pomeranians have long been my favourites, for they combine so many of the best qualities that we look for in a "house" or "pet" dog. Clever, gay, faithful, clean—"snappy," did I hear you say? That depends upon yourself, or whoever has the training of him in his puppyhood. Training is such an important and interesting matter—the repressing and eliminating of bad traits of character, the encouraging and developing of all that is good. I therefore propose making it the subject of this paper. Did you ever think of the duties and responsibilities that the possession of a puppy involves? That it depends upon you whether it is to be known in the future as "Such a charming, clever little creature! So obedient! No trouble whatever, but quite a companion!" or else as "That horrid, yapping, dirty little thing! So mischievous and disobedient!" Yet that is how the matter really stands.

Believe me, a well-trained dog makes, in its puppyhood, as many claims upon the unselfishness, patience, wisdom, and forbearance of its "missus" as any young baby. A puppy, only a few weeks old, can be taught to love and then to obey because he loves. But that lesson is not learnt in a day, nor is it taught by decking him with ribbons, holding him up and kissing him, and exclaiming ecstatically, "Isn't he too sweet! Isn't he lovely!" while the charm of novelty lasts, and then, when some fresh interest arises, or he has reached the "awkward age," which comes to most puppies as it does to most girls, neglecting him and relegating him to the kitchen or stables.

If he be high-spirited and of a sturdy nature, the loss will be yours, for the faithful love that might have been yours for the winning will be lavished on whoever has had the care of him. But if your puppy be delicate and highly nervous (and most pet dogs nowadays are just a bundle of nerves), anything like uneven or harsh treatment will ruin him for life, making him snappish and treacherous, not from bad temper but from fear and distrust.

As a rule a "man's dog" is better trained than that of a woman. Not necessarily that the training is more rational, but it is more consistent. A "man's dog" may, possibly, not show the same individuality, but its fidelity and

obedience are usually perfect. Generally speaking, a man expects only one thing from his dog—prompt and unquestioning obedience. According as the dog gives it or not he is, in the man's opinion, a "good" or a "worthless" dog, and on that strong foundation of obedience his future training, whether for sport or companionship, rests. If we are to get the same result, we must be as firm. Teach your puppy as many "tricks" as you please, they help to develop both his obedience and his intelligence, but do not let him, even in fun, acquire bad tricks, such as worrying slippers or rugs, or hanging on to your dress. Let him have his own "toys" which he may worry, for this habit often arises from the irritation caused by cutting teeth, and is rather a help in dentition, as it knocks out the old loose teeth. Amongst bad habits there is one that I should not have thought of mentioning had I not heard on unimpeachable authority that a dog belonging to a high dignitary of the Church was guilty in this respect. Never, oh, never let your dog, whatever his size or beauty may be, walk about on the table at meals! The dog I have alluded to above was neither small nor beautiful, at least, not in the opinion of the guests. Besides, you would be teaching your dog to steal, so do not blame him if some day, when his appetite is keen or his patience exhausted, you should find him on the rug discussing that nice roast chicken or those daintily-frilled cutlets! I admit it is often convenient, but personally I think it a mistake to feed dogs during meals; it makes them restless and troublesome. My sister and I once lunched with a very "happy-go-lucky" family that were not of that opinion. The neat way in which they inserted their forks under the half-picked bones on their plates and sent the bones flying over their shoulders to their expectant dogs, who promptly carried them under the table to discuss, showed plenty of "training" of a sort.

There are two important factors in training a puppy—praise and punishment. Neither can be dispensed with. The training must consist of a judicious admixture of the two with a preponderance of praise. Never stint praise when your dog has done well or thought of something clever. Always remember that he is a very sensitive creature; that your ideas and wishes are to him, at present, an unexplored country; that it takes him time to "get into your ways"; therefore, when he does hit upon one of those "ways," praise him. A very amusing illustration of the value of praise in the training of dogs happened to me some years ago at Cannes. The *concierge* (literally "porter," actually gardener and general factotum) of the villa we had taken owned a dog with two young puppies. Having no dog of my own at the time, of course I adopted Diane and her puppies. In course of time Diane was sold and one of the puppies given away; only "Jumbo" remained, and very devoted he became. One day I dropped my handkerchief in the garden; Jumbo found it and brought it to the drawing-room window unsoiled and unturned. He was so praised and petted that ever after he would steal any dusters put out to dry on the bushes, or, failing them, any dirty bit of rag that he could find and bring them to the same place.

Another dog, a Pomeranian given to my sister and me when we were children, and which we had for nearly fourteen years, was a very clever little thing, and learnt every trick that we tried to teach her. One day we urged her to take some water against her will. We insisted, she objected. At last she threw herself down and pretended to "die." Whether she meant to say "Sooner perish!" or "You'll be the death of me!" I don't know, but she got her own way and was so applauded that she invariably repeated the trick whenever her will crossed ours.

Punishment must be administered sometimes, but never (if you can help it) when you are angry. Give as few orders as possible, but never let them be disobeyed even in

fun. Nothing is more ignominious than trying to catch an offending puppy in order to punish him. Never go after him; he will certainly get the best of it if you do. If you are in your garden or anywhere where such treatment is possible, call the dog and wait till he comes up to take his punishment, though it's more than probable that you may have to wait some time. Therefore, if you are walking with friends or are in any public place when such a course would be impossible, wait until you get home, but don't let him forget in the meantime that he is in disgrace, for it is cruel to punish a dog for some naughtiness that he has forgotten. For such heinous crimes as chasing fowls or sheep or frightening children the punishment should be as prompt as possible and also severe. If this be done the first time, before the dog has acquired the bad habit, there is rarely any need for a repetition.

In the matter of cleanliness, so essential in a house dog, many a poor puppy gets branded as "dirty" when it is his mistress who should be branded instead as "lazy" or "inconsiderate." Few seem to know that, until a puppy is four or five months old, it cannot learn clean ways unless it is constantly put outside, especially after eating or drinking, or a long cosy sleep in his basket. I never care to bring any of my puppies into the house until they are six months old, then a week suffices to teach them the elements of good manners. Of course the puppy should always be put outside the last thing at night and the first thing in the morning.

Of course, the severity or otherwise of the punishment must be regulated by the age, size and also disposition of

the dog. No two are really alike. Our old collie, for instance, resents punishment, a sullen "glower" comes into his eyes, and he is long in forgiving; while one of my brothers once said of a bull-terrier pup, "What I like about that dog is, that he comes up and takes his punishment like a man and never bears any grudge."

An affectionate and well-trained puppy rarely requires the whip in later life. It is quite misery and punishment enough for him to know that he has offended you, for by that time he has learnt your point of view even though his own may not always coincide. I have a large white Pomeranian familiarly known as "Bobs" or "Bobby." Sometimes his spirits get the better of him, but he is annihilated and grovels at once if sternly addressed as "Robert!"

One word, before closing this paper, on the subject of training a dog to go on a "lead," an absolutely necessary accomplishment for any valuable pet dog in a large town. How trying to be rushed from side to side of the road by choking, spluttering Fido, or else to be obliged to drag the unwilling victim in your wake! Well, it is always better, if possible, to let Fido have a little scamper before you put on his lead. Let the lead be a light leather one and keep it quite short, so that he is kept in close at your side; talk to him, let him play with the other end of the lead, anything to prevent his feeling frightened and hanging back. If, on the other hand, he should jump up or rush forward, check him at once by putting your whip or umbrella in front of him. He will very soon learn to behave on the lead if you do not either spoil or frighten him.



SITE, BASE, SUPPORT, AND SUPERSTRUCTURE.

A CONTRAST BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN METHODS OF BUILDING.

PART I.



WHEN a building has to be erected it is always most important to consider the space it is to occupy, called the "site," and carefully to examine its nature, position, and characteristics. For instance, note well whether it is in a town or in the country, whether it is upon a hill, in a valley, or on a level plane. Now, this is so evident that we can almost imagine our "common-sense reader" laughing at so obvious a proposition, yet, strange to say, some of the greatest defects of modern architecture can be traced to the neglect of these precautions; and certainly very many beauties of ancient buildings were undoubtedly suggested by careful attention to the peculiarities of "sites." Nay, more than

this, those very irregularities which so puzzle the modern builder, in the hands of the ancient architect added interest and grace to his works. Nothing is more common nowadays than to find a regular town house built in the country or a would-be country house set up in a town, or to see a building which would have been appropriate if placed on a hill set down in a valley or on a level flat.

So frequently is this the case that some architects and builders have been accused of "cooking up designs" made for one kind of site to suit another of a different character. Do we not frequently see great gloomy-looking terraces in seaside places which would be far more suitable to Tyburnia, Belgravia, or Bayswater? What, for instance, is more common than to find marine residences with kitchens in the basement, lit from areas, with huge flights of steps leading up to street doors? Such things may be a necessity in a London house, but they are entirely out of keeping in