

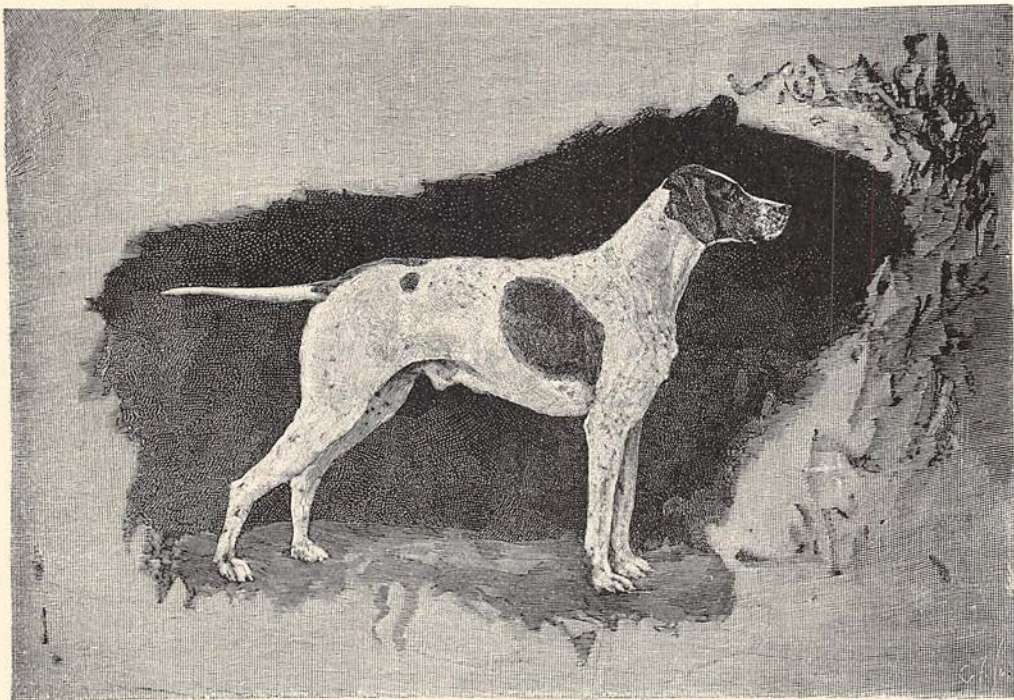


POINTER "CROXTETH." (FROM A PICTURE BY J. M. TRACY; BY PERMISSION OF JAMES M. BURT.)

TYPICAL DOGS.—POINTERS.

AS the owner and breeder of pointers and setters for nearly thirty years, with preferences vibrating from time to time from the one to the other, I have finally, I think, reached a settled preference for the pointer. It is a common opinion that the setter is the more affectionate, sagacious, and domestic; but I doubt whether this is borne out by experience. Among the many dogs I have owned, the

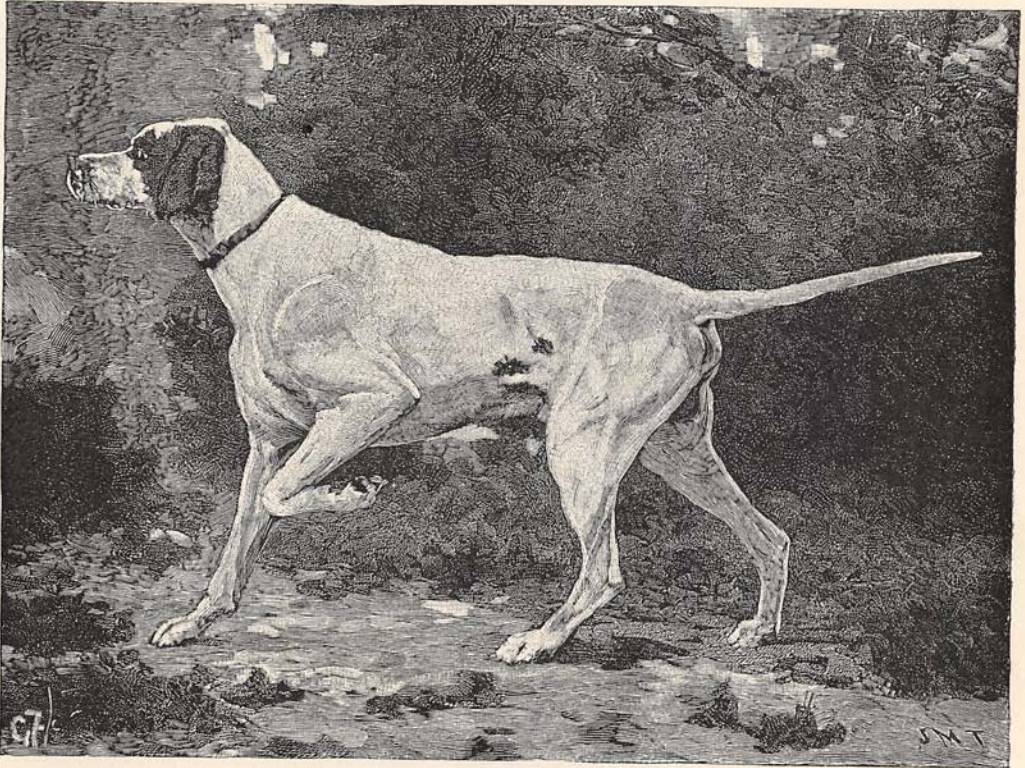
most remarkable instances of sagacity and affection which have come under my observation have been in pointers. If space permitted I am sure I could interest readers by narrating the wonderful intelligence of my old pointer "Brack," who was the best ball player in our school, or the life of "Vic," who took her university course with me, and I doubt if any setter that ever lived was their superior.



POINTER "METEOR." (FROM A STUDY BY J. M. TRACY.)

And yet I would not be understood as decrying the setter, for the scale of excellence between the breeds is very nearly evenly balanced, and as I have said is a mere matter of preference. The best dog I have to-day is a young setter named "Diomed," combining the strains of "Coin," "Ranger," and an old stock of Virginia natives; although he is but eighteen months old I do not believe a finer field dog lives.

much of his time was spent in seeking the little lakes to bathe and refresh himself, and relieve the suffering occasioned by his thick coat. Nor is his advantage from this in cold weather considerable. In very cold weather it is apt to be unfit to shoot, and whenever the season is auspicious, however cold, one may rest assured that a pointer, of the energy and dash a good dog should have, will keep himself warm with the exercise. I consider an-



POINTER "BANG BANG." (FROM A PICTURE BY J. M. TRACY; BY PERMISSION FROM THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB.)

My observation of the two breeds, however, has led me to the conclusion that pointers, as a class, have keener noses, more passion for hunting, and more endurance than setters. Our best shooting is in the warm sunny days about the last of October and until the middle of November. In that season setters with their heavy coats become weary much sooner than the short-haired pointer. I became more convinced of this than ever before this year on the prairies of Minnesota. I shot prairie-chickens with friend Vandevort, who took out a string of splendid pointers, including "Don," "Luck of Eden Hall," "Luck's Baby," "Joy," "Drab," and "Icicle." It was intensely hot on the prairies, and we had a companion with a setter. While the pointers were comparatively fresh the setter was distressed, and

other thing greatly in favor of the pointer. He has the pointing instinct much more distinctly developed in him than the setter, and once broken, he retains it more surely. The setter is of spaniel origin, and like the spaniel his inclination naturally is, on discovering game, to flush, and chase, and even give tongue. This I do not object to. On the contrary, the pup I delight in is one that, instead of halting, and squatting, and pointing, dashes, bulges in, and runs wild when he strikes his first game. His early frenzy is but proof of the consuming passion for sport which insures a good dog. But this inclination, springing from the spaniel instinct to chase and clamor, necessitates in many setters the loss of several of the best days of the season every year in bringing them down to the strict rules of

business, while on the other hand the pointer being by nature inclined to the cataleptic attitude is apt when once broken to retain his breaking for life, and furnish the same sport on the opening day of the season as when we

have become so imbedded in the feet padding and in the long hair under the shoulders and thighs of my setters as to force me to lose half an hour in removing them, at the prettiest hour for shooting, for they so encumber,



POINTER "BOW." (FROM A STUDY BY J. M. TRACY; BY PERMISSION OF MR. J. G. HECKSCHER.)

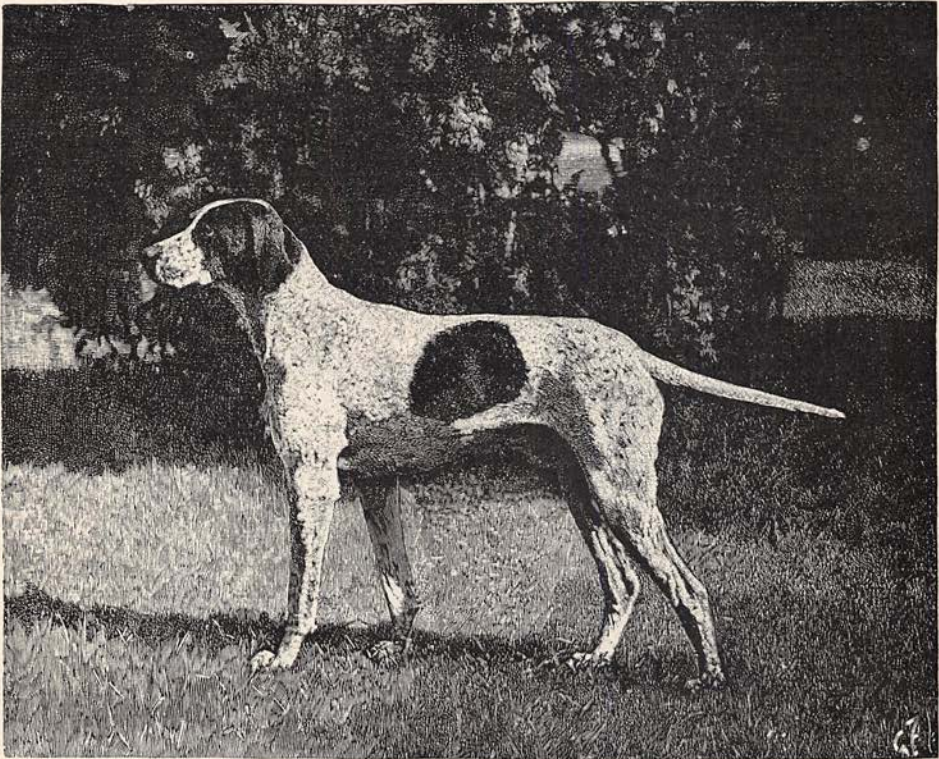
take our farewell shoot in the cold winds of January.

Many persons extol the superior beauty of the setter. A handsome setter with silken hair and soft lines is very attractive, but a clean-limbed, hard-muscled, round-ribbed pointer is a type of beauty to which thousands of men incline in preference to the other. To my eye nothing expresses beauty more strongly than the hard, clean outline from occiput to tip of tail, from shoulder-blade to arched toe, of a lean, hard pointer whose every line and every muscle tells what he was made for and what he can do. He stands expressing power, and will, and grit, and toil, like a blacksmith leaning on his sledge by the molten fire, and no silken setter can surpass that expression any more than could a gentleman in dress suit surpass the grim blacksmith's look of strength.

A minor advantage of the pointer in our section, and yet one not to be ignored, is the constant trouble of the setter from which the pointer is free, arising from the pestiferous sand-burr. On many occasions these burrs

lame, and distress the setter-dogs as to unfit them for work, while the pointers pass through them unharmed. *Per contra*, few are the pointers that can or will enter our matted brier patches on the ditch banks and drive out the sulking birds or follow the wing-tipped, as do the setters with their heavy coats.

The type of pointer has greatly changed within my memory, and I do not think it has improved. The first pointer I recollect was "Bembo." He was a dog weighing seventy pounds without any lumber. He was liver-shotted all over, with a broad, flat head, deep flews, a red haw in the eye, round-ribbed, high on the leg, ragged and broad in the hips, rattailed, with feet as large as one's fist, hard as nails, and ran like a horse on the home stretch. When he stood his jaws dripped foam and his cheeks distended and fell with excitement. When he ran he would knock you down if you were in the way, and when he took a fence he only touched with his heels. "Bembo" was the common type of pointer in those days. The finer breed was



POINTER "DONALD." (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY SCHREIBER, PHILADELPHIA.)

represented by the breed of Mr. Joseph Gayles of Washington, but they were nothing like the shivering, curly-tailed, bull-dog-headed, and Italian-greyhound-bodied dogs that are being bred to-day. "Bembo" had more work in him than whole kennels I could name to-day, and his breed is now almost or quite extinct. We are breeding them too fine, and are sacrificing stamina, grit, go, and real field worth, for a false standard of beauty.

Without comparing the relative merits of the celebrated pointer dogs in America, or even attempting to name them in order of merit, the most celebrated I know are Sensation, Faust, Croxteth, Rush, Vandevort's Don, Beaufort, Meteor, Bravo, Donald, Beulah, Bellona, Lalla Rookh. To these I might add many others of both sexes, but forbear, as space forbids. Without wishing to appear invidious, and without having shot over the others, I have no hesitation in saying that while Vandevort's Don is far from being the handsomest pointer I ever shot over he is the best field dog I ever worked behind, and my own old Beulah is, without being a thorough type of beauty, the gentlest, tenderest, most sagacious and affectionate pointer bitch I ever shot over.

John S. Wise.

OUR American pointers for very many years have been more *uniformly* good than our setters, and this is because the pointer is more easily kept to a type. In England, where the greatest care is taken in his breeding, he is truer to type than the setter, and the importations from England of the finest specimens that money could procure, have done much for five years past, and are still doing much, to improve the breed in America. No other dog can compare with him in that finished appearance which characterizes him, yet no dog is capable of doing harder work. A well-bred pointer, and by that I mean a *properly* bred dog, is courageous and enduring. When his day's work is done and he has had his supper, he is ready for bed without groaning; and the next morning finds him fresh for new fields. He is inferior to no dog in all the qualities that go to make the sportsman's companion. Pointers will be bred by intelligent breeders in America in future with a view to field qualities, and this will produce *handsome* dogs. The *best* form for a working pointer is the *handsomest* form. The pointer of the future will weigh from fifty to sixty pounds, the nearer fifty-five the better. He will have a clean-cut, bony head, with plenty of brain room, but without the pronounced occipital

bone standing up sharp, which has been so long admired, but which is neither useful nor ornamental. His head will be set on a clean, race-horse-looking neck, free from unnecessary throatiness, and slightly arched. His shoulders, which must be well muscled and well bent, will lie close to the chest, and be narrow at the top. His legs will be particularly well boned and muscled—but as clean as swords. His feet will be round and hard and tight.

we must discard every animal of unauthenticated pedigree, for the unknown sort *may* be mongrels, and very likely are. We must avoid extremes of size, shape, or other physical characteristics. We must adhere to a proper type, and not expect good pups from poor parents. We must make up our minds to get rid of every animal in breeding, that is not first-rate, recollecting that one good dog is worth fifty poor ones, and cheaper to raise.



POINTER "MAXIM." (FROM A STUDY BY J. M. TRACY; BY PERMISSION OF C. KLACKNER.)

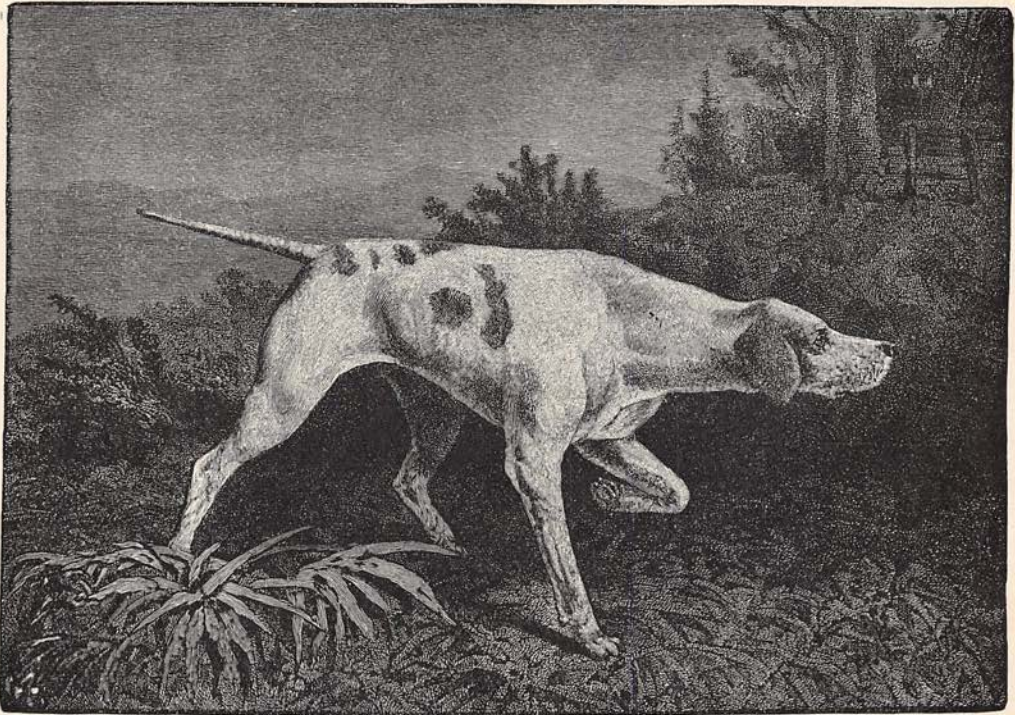
His chest will be deep and full. No broad, thick-chested pointer ever was or ever can be fast and enduring. His back and loin will be strong and sloping back gradually to wide, strong, sloping hips. His thighs will be well bent and well muscled, not beefy. His stifles and hocks well bent; his pasterns clean. His tail straight and gradually tapering to the end, but not too fine and rat-like. His general appearance well balanced and harmonious. No ill-proportioned dog should be tolerated.

If proper judgment is used in breeding; not the simple mating of a sire and dam because both are imported, or because both in their way are fashionable; but that judgment which having selected the proper form of both, looks to the happy crosses of winning blood, we shall produce pointers in America the equals of any in the world. To do this

The Drake, the Bang, and the Sefton crosses are the best blood obtainable from England, and the happiest combinations of these three are the foundation of the future American pointer.

John W. Munson.

Of all the sporting dogs that we have at the present day, the pointer is the oldest pure breed; the many varieties of setters being made up of various crosses. He is spoken of as having been imported into England from Spain some time in the seventeenth century; he also crept into France, Germany, and even Russia. England did more to improve the breed than any of the other countries, so that to-day this strain is spoken of as the English



POINTER "BRAVO." (BY PERMISSION OF MR. J. G. N. APPOLD.)

pointer. The original Spanish pointer was a heavy, slow dog, loose-made and very lumbering. In the early stages of improvement, he was undoubtedly crossed with the fox-hound, and by judicious breeding he has reached his present high standard of excellence. In Germany, he has retained more of his old Spanish type. He was first introduced into America from England, and in fact is even still being imported; but those bred in this country from first-class stock not very far distant from imported parents, are even ahead of what have recently been sent to this country and represented as being considered in England first-class. For all-round field work, the pointer is better than the setter, and when once broken is *always broken*, as he never forgets his training, no matter if a season passes without being used.

At bench-shows the pointers are divided into two classes; the light weights fifty-five pounds and under, and the heavy weights over fifty-five pounds. For general field use the small pointer is much the best, as he can stand more work than the large ones. They are more easily carried around either in a wagon or on railroad trains, and when out of the field are a neater-looking animal for a companion. I never saw a large dog keep up with a medium-sized one; they might do it for a while, but the smaller ones are generally

full of animation up to the finish of a long hunt. From my experience the best dog weighs from fifty to fifty-eight pounds, has a good deep chest, not too long coupled, shoulders sloping, cat feet, and strong hind legs. The hind legs are what gives the animal the propelling power, and the sloping shoulders aid him in his free, easy gallop.

A dog with a broad, bull-dog chest is never a good goer and never can last in his work. If the hind quarters are not good the dog has not the graceful motion that is so pleasing to the eye of a sportsman.

In color, the pointer's coat has less variety than the setter. There are liver and white, lemon and white, solid liver, and solid black. Some are black and white, but it is not often. A pointer's nose and eyes should be in harmony with the color of his spots, that is, a liver and white dog should have a liver-colored nose and eyes of as near the same brown as possible. A lemon and white dog should have a flesh-colored nose and lighter eyes. A lemon and white pointer should *not* have a black nose or black eyes. Having stated the major points of the pointer I will not go further in detail than to call attention to the tail, which should be tapering to a sharp point, straight and carried level with the back or a little higher, but not straight up in the air.

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