CANINE KINGS AT BALMORAL.

BELFAST SHOW'S INCREASED ENTRY.

FEMININE ENTHUSIASM.

Public Interest Growing.

Rapidly disappearing are the days when the knowledge of the average man and woman concerning a dog was confined to the idea that one end wags and the other bites, if the soaring entry and the keen public interest in the Belfast Dog Society's two days' championship show, which opened at Balmoral yesterday, can be accepted as a pointer towards the public's enthusiasm for its best friend of the animal kingdom.

The total number of entries this year was 1,540, representing 650 dogs, compared with last year's total, 1,430, representing 600 dogs. Here numbers, however, did not constitute the chief impression of the show's comprehensiveness, it was the fact that all stations of mankind were displaying a measure of personal interest in dogs that were stamped more indelibly on an onlooker's mind.

Not merely Northern Ireland but from practically every corner of the United Kingdom and the Free State came the competitors, and it can be truthfully asserted that the dogs were canine kings. Balmoral is a name which has a regal ring, and so it was only fitting that the most princely denizens of kingdom should have vied one with the other in such well-equipped and propitious surroundings.

Even that fickle factor, the weather, contributed little to the success of the event, and with a glorious September sun shining during the judging rings the beauty of the handsome animals was clearly defined, and their colour, particularly the glowing red of the Irish setters, was shown to the best advantage, thereby causing a sudden dog fervour in the breast of the most indifferent novice in the canine world.

EVE AND THE DOGS.

The reason for this revival of general keenness for dogs is perhaps difficult to expound in these times, when a dog's help, except on farms and in the coverts, is regarded as an item to be entered in the luxury column of the household budget; but a glance at the rings yesterday would have confirmed that Irish setters, once more a modern vogue of popularity—of the interest of Eve. Feminine activity was not confined to the toy dogs, as despised by most he-men, for one particularly strong breed, the charming Sealyhams, were almost the monopoly of the ladies.

Big dogs, of course, are not so numerous now as they have been, but where wolfhounds and Dalmatians stalked their stately way a trim breed-skirted figure was usually to be seen in attendance. Deerhounds attracted a wonderfully encouraging entry, and there is promised a good future for these pleasing types.

Alsatians, on the other hand, appear to be waning in popular esteem, although the specimens on show compensated a diminished entry by outstanding quality. In one sphere, nevertheless, the Alsatians have yet to meet palpable opposition; as police dogs they are unchallenged, and one of the most spectacular episodes of the show will be the obedience tests, which are to be staged to-day.

The cramped housing conditions of modern times have naturally tended to act in favour of the smaller dogs, and of the less well-known breeds Cairns and Scottish terriers are distinctly on the upgrade in their bid to be Mr. Everyman's animal.

DISTEMPER DANGER DIMINISHED.

Another pleasing feature was an indication of the decline of the breeder's customary tenement to put young animals on show. This can be extended to the welcome discovery recently of an anti-distemper serum, and so a "Whig" reporter was informed yesterday, many Northern Irish veterinary surgeons are keenly recommending the new inoculation system, brought about by the Belfast firm of Cahill and its experts at Mill Hill.

GUN DOGS.

It is only natural that in such a fine sporting country as Ulster gun dogs should be well to the fore, and for size of entry cocker spaniels headed the list. Labrador retrievers, however, offered a bold challenge.

Warming to the heart of the Irishman was the fine showing of the Irish setters, and it is all the more gratifying to the Ulsterman that the entry was considered a record for Northern Ireland, especially as there was a welcome visit from Sir Valentine Grace, Bart., of Monkstown, and the dogs he had exhibited were quite up to the usually high standard of the Belfast Empire. The dog film star, "The Keeper of the Door," is attending the show, and to-day he will be demonstrating his prowess.

VIEWS OF THE JUDGES.

Exhibits Generally Very Good.

"Do you think Irish breeders can hold their own with their friends across the water," a "Whig" reporter asked Colonel Williamson, the well-known Staffordshire breeder of Sealyhams, and one of the best known judges in the dog world, who was paying his first visit to an Irish show.

"They usually do when they come across the water," he replied. "Yes, you have a very fine show here in Belfast, and the Sealyhams were a very nice lot. The winning bitch was beautiful, while the leading dog was a good mover, with a fine head."

Mr. W. Glynn, unable to devote scrutiny time Bedlingtons, Scottish, Cairn, and White West Highland Terriers, said—"The dog classes were well worthy of the name of the Belfast Empire. The dog film star, "The Keeper of the Door," is attending the show, and to-day he will be demonstrating his prowess.

Mr. A. Dalzell, owing to his onerous duties as chairman of the Show, was not an exhibitor, but despite his absence local showmen and women had a successful day. Mr. Wm. M'Causland, with his cocker spaniel, Melfort Magpie, carried off four firsts, in addition to winning the Lynwood Challenge Cup and Williamson Cup (outright). He was also awarded first prize for his brace—Melfort Magpie and Melfort Martha.

In Sealyhams Mrs. Maurice Neill, with Stout Fella, gained a second and third prize. One of the strongest supporters of the Irish setter breed was Mrs. R. S. Heron, Katesbridge, and with Napper O'Crane won the championship.

The president is Mr. Thomas E. M'Connell, C.B.E., J.P.; and the officials and Committee—Chairman, Mr. A. Dalzell; deputy-chairman, Mr. J. Wilson; hon. treasurer, Mr. Thomas Allen; hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. M'Ilhagga.

TRIBUTES TO ORGANISERS.

Tributes to the perfect arrangements which had characterised the Show were paid at an official luncheon held in the dining hall on the ing the day. Mr. A. Dalzell, chairman of the Show, presided, and submitted the first toast, "The Dog Show Club." The toast of "The Judges" was responded to by Mr. Walter Glynn, Colonel R. S. Williamson, and Mr. A. W. Maconchy. The Hon. Mr. Justice Hanna responded to the sentiment of "The Irish Kennel Club." Mr. Justice Hanna in turn proposed the toast of "The Belfast Dog Show Society," Mr. A. Dalzell responding.

The catering was in the hands of the Ulster Menu Company, and was carried out with the efficiency characteristic of the firm.

JUDGES.

Deerhounds, great Danes, mastiffs, Dalmatians, bull terriers, French bulldogs, pugs, pons, Yorkshires, black and tan terriers, griffons, any variety toys, any variety not classed, Irish water spaniels, any variety not classed, and litters—Mr. J. W. Marples.

Sealyhams, Irish setters, Alsatians, Labrador and golden retrievers, Irish water spaniels, and any variety not classed—Major L. Bowen Irish terriers—Mr. W. Barker. Fox terriers (wire and smooth)—Mrs. M. V. Hope-Johnstone. Boxers, Scottish terriers, and Boston Bulldogs—Lt.-Col. Goodwin, D.S.O. Sealyham terriers and Welsh terriers. Cocker spaniels and English springers—Mrs. Jamieson Higgins. Collies—Mr. A. Wood-Mason. Irish setters—Mr. D. A. Woodsdale terriers—Mr. Justice Hanna, K.C. Bedlington, Scottish terriers, and white West Highland terriers—Mr. W. S. Glynn. Pekingese—Mr. F. A. Gunther. Alsatians—Mr. J. D. Dalgleish. Irish wolfhounds—Mr. J. A. Carbery.

CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES.

Irish Wolfhounds—Dog—Calleen of Ouborough (Mr. James W. Buck, Surrey). Bitch—Rose of Hindhead (Mr. James W. Rank).

Deerhounds—Dog—Ch. Patrick of Ross (Misses M. F. and H. M. Loughrey, Londonderry). Bitch—Dreamatic of Ross (Misses M. F. and H. M. Loughrey).

Great Danes—Dog—Stanton Shrine (R. H. Mercer, Nelson). Bitch—Pershina Kate (S. G. Taylor, Belfast).

Mastiffs—Dog—Ch. Bendigo of Ross (Miss R. S. Heron, Ratesbridge). Bitch—Norna (Mrs. M. Odgen, Bexley).

Labrador Retrievers.—Dog—Ash Hussar (Mrs. M. Anderson, Marlow). Bitch—Thrill of Whitmore (T. H. Morby).

Irish Water Spaniels.—Dog—Ch. Brehby Count (T. French O'Rourke, Bodmin). Bitch—Brehby Gloria F. French O'Rourke).

Cocker Spaniels.—Dog—Ch. Churchdene Invader (J. Hamilton, Preston). Bitch—Expectation of Rodney (R. Grierson, Dumfries).

Sealyham Springer.—Dog—Ruffton Recorder (R. Cornthwaite, Morecombe). Bitch—Ch. Admiration Speed (Mrs. Jamieson Higgins).

Collies, Rough.—Dog—Backwood's Turnsetter (F. W. Hall, Farnsby). Bitch—Annandale Anita (John Ross Burgh, Lockmaben).

Labrador Retrievers.—Dog—Ch. Belfort Supreme (S. M. Stewart, Coventry). Bitch—Ch. Wolstanton Reflection (Mrs. H. Plant, Bedfordshire).

Irish Terriers.—Dog—Leader's Reflection (John Rowlett, Ilminster). Bitch—Heatherside Sheila's Double (George M. Barr, Chorley).

Irish Setters.—Dog—Sensich—Dog—Semloh Superman (Wm. A. Holmes, Yorkshire). Bitch—Ch. Sampler (Mrs. Stewart Cairns and Scottish terriers are distinctly on the upgrade in their bid to be Mr. Everyman's animal.

Cairn Terriers.—Dog—Ch. Churchdene Invader (J. E. Butler, Dublin). Bitch—Beechacre Blaeberry Queen (M. Irving, Perthshire).

Pekingese.—Dog—Beverley Beetle (Mrs. V. Graham, Newtownbreda). Bitch—Hay Blossom of Broadway (Mrs. M. H. Kirkpatrick, Neville Park, Dundrod).

Pekingese.—Dog—J'Onen of Greystones (Miss M. L. Harrison, Greystones, Co. Wicklow). Bitch—Ch. Ruffton Rose (J. Wilson, Linfield Road, Belfast).

Kerry Blue Terriers.—Dog—Beverly O'Dorsey Abbey (T. J. Donaghy, Ballymena). Bitch—Ben-Edar Bestie (Mrs. Ben-Edar Bestie (Mrs. R. S. Heron, Ratesbridge).

Sealyham Terriers.—Dog—Sirius of Sisberry (Miss M. V. Rutway, Surrey). Bitch—Brash Beautiful (R. S. de Quincey, Bexhill, Sussex).

Bedlington Terriers.—Dog—Dourose Highlander (Robert Chapman, Scotland). Bitch—Ailsa's Audacity.

Irish Wolfhound Club silver medal for best Irish Wolfhound Club silver medal for best bitch —Idona of Hindhead (J. Rank).

DEERHOUNDS.

Abbotsford and Ross Challenge Bowls, Townland Rose, for best hound—Miss Rose Heron's Rose of Ross.

Abbotsford Challenge Bowl—Ch. Patrisic of Ross (the Misses Loughrey).

Brownlow's Trophy, for best hound under three—Bevis of Springfoot (W. G. Graham, Killyleagh).

GREAT BRITAIN ALSATIAN LEAGUE.

Egerton Challenge Cup, for best Bow Cup—Anthony of Mauinby (Mrs. Hall Walker, Thirsk).

Hadden Cup, for Body Challenge Cup—Anthony of Mauinby (Mrs. Hall Walker, Thirsk).

Cup for West Highland white terriers—Ch. Place-more Caution (Mrs. A. M. Bird, Dorking).

NORTHERN IRELAND ALSATIAN CLUB.

Turnbull Bell and Ravensdowne Cup—Jill of Charleville (F. W. Parks, Lisburn).

Turnbull Bell and Ravensdowne Cup—Lord Lieutenant of Carlisle—Miss J. B. Hamill and J. Colgan, Belfast).

Miss Peel Challenge Cup—Ch. Patrisic of Ross (the Misses Loughrey).

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Cup for West Highland white terriers—Ch. Place-more Caution (Mrs. A. M. Bird, Dorking).

IRISH WOLFHOUND TROPHIES.

Ouborough Cup, Under Two Years Cup, Knockbenna Cup for best in show, and Irish Wolfhound Club silver medal for best dog—Callen of Oubrough (J. Rank).

Irish Wolfhound Club silver medal for best bitch —Idona of Hindhead (J. Rank).

DEERHOUNDS.

Abbotsford and Ross Challenge Bowls, Townland Rose, for best hound—Miss Rose Heron's Rose of Ross.

Abbotsford Challenge Bowl