

COMPANION DOG TRAINING

*A Practical Manual on Systematic Obedience;
Dog Training in Word and Picture*

By
HANS TOSSUTTI

ILLUSTRATED

Revised Edition



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To my best pal, Bodo von der Muerttz (1921-1932); and to the 3,000 pupils in my dog training classes in Boston, Massachusetts, from 1928 to 1940, this book is dedicated.

INTRODUCTION

The steadily increasing interest in the obedience trained dog has made it necessary for the amateur to seek assistance in order to learn the best approved methods of training his dog in this type of work. Such knowledge is necessary not alone for the purpose of training the dog for obedient deportment in the home, but also for the purpose of enabling the average owner to compete with his dog in organized obedience test competitions.

Almost from the moment that the American Kennel Club recognized all such training to the extent of adopting rules and regulations for it, many books, written primarily to instruct along the general lines of feeding, care and management, included information on training in more or less understandable form. And while, specifically, the training lessons contained in these books differed a great deal, in the aggregate they were commendable in bringing to the public attention the fact that training by amateurs, under the right auspices, was not only possible but highly desirable.

However, some of this earlier counsel, as well as some that has since followed, failed in certain respects to accomplish its aim for this reason alone: Without any doubt

at all, the writers knew their subject but they did not know how to teach it. Only in a very small percentage of human beings does knowledge go hand in hand with the ability to impart it. Knowledge is commendable: teaching an art acquired by all too few. Consequently, when we come upon a man possessed of knowledge gained from long and intensive experience plus the faculty for teaching it as it should be taught, then we have a man whose words should be heeded, and whose lessons can be learned.

Such a man is the author of this book. He is a practical trainer of dogs for sport and for war service; whose work has included Red Cross carriers (messages and ammunition), police service, motion picture and stage performers and leaders of the blind. He has met with conspicuous success in training dogs in all of these capacities, and he has taught uncounted hundreds of others to train dogs as well.

Hans Tossutti received his own education in Europe. One of the organizers of the blind-leading school in Potsdam, Germany, and police-service dog-guide and instructor in Berlin, he made his ring debut under that highest world authority, the late Captain von Stephanitz. Upon arriving in this country seventeen years ago, he became the first organizer of dog training in classes, when he established the New England Training School for Dogs in Boston in 1928. Here he subsequently held the record



One of the early training classes (1933) of the New England Training School for Dogs, conducted by the author.

for having trained under his direction what is believed to be the largest number of dogs on this side. His American record shows more than 3,000 dogs schooled in his classes, and more than 200 personally trained, while many of his pupils are now accredited American Kennel Club judges.

Mr. Tossutti's system of training is by no means one-sided, that is, *it* is not adaptable merely to a limited number of breeds. Though some breeds he considers more fitted for training temperamentally than others, still, practically every breed of dog has been trained by him at one time or another. Most famous of all was probably his own Shepherd, Bodo von der Mueritz, known the country over from 1925 to 1932 in motion picture work.

In 1940, by virtue of his experience, the author was appointed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as instructor for the Department of Education, Division of University Extension courses. Several clubs have adopted his training system with the greatest success, while his exhibition at Eastern Dog Club shows have been copied throughout the country. His original system which he brought from abroad, he adjusted skillfully to American conditions and to this fact must be attributed some measure of his success.

There is little doubt that the people of the United States need further education in the training and handling of dogs. Such an education lies between the covers of this book. It is a firm though intensely humane type of edit-



THE 1936 BEGINNERS CLASS OF THE NEW ENGLAND TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DOGS

Founded in 1928 and conducted by Hans Tossutti, this school in 1937 became the New England Dog Training Club. 1. Miss K. Wcllman now the club's president. 2. Mr. F. Belleviau, well known deaf mute. 3. Miss A. Terraine, club secretary. 4. Mr. W. Emerson, with Toni. 5. In background, Mrs. E. Tumquist. Director Tossutti stands at the extreme right.

cation, devoid of whipping and hunger punishments; devoid also of forcing the dog beyond his inborn capabilities yet taking advantage of them to the full.

This is a book not for casual reading if maximum benefits are to accrue. Rather is it for study, word by word and lesson by lesson, in gradual and successive progress from the simplest to the most advanced exercises, all of which can be acquired by the dog of average intelligence when handled in the right way.

EDITOR

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DOG TRAINING

The popularity of the police dog in Europe, and the almost unbelievable results accomplished by dog training during the first World War inspired scientists and animal experts to undertake the study of dog psychology for the purpose of improving, if possible, upon the training systems then in vogue. Successful training is possible only in the presence of perfect understanding between the trainer and his dog. Clearly then, there can be no such understanding without full knowledge of the dog's mental capacity; that, plus an understanding of his character.

For years controversy has raged regarding the dog's ability to reason. And because of the close bond of affection between everyman and his dog, many have held to what they believed to be true, that the dog can and does reason. But I agree with those scientists and intelligent students who claim that he cannot. I do not believe there is any such thing as reasoning power in the dog. I believe, rather, that he merely reacts to directions given by man. In other words, those feats of certain wonder dogs which so often arouse astonishment and admiration are not the result of independent thinking on the part of the animal: quite to

the contrary, they are no more than obedience to some visible or audible sign, signal or command.

It is not my purpose to under-estimate, or to over-estimate, mental capacity or the ability to learn which differs markedly in dogs. Some will learn quite rapidly. All, however, need signs or commands. How often we hear someone exclaim: "My dog understands every word I say to him!" But he doesn't. Let me explain.

A dog responds to like sounding commands having different meanings but a similar inflection of the voice. For example, a dog that has been trained to the command "*Heel*," if ordered "meal," "reel, "steal" or "veal," will obey as readily, despite the fact that he has been told to do something entirely different or that he has heard an expression devoid of any meaning at all as a command word. That, I consider, proves that the dog cannot think independently.

Again, in support of my contention is the fact that the dog will not alone obey like sounding words given as commands, but that he will observe and interpret various tones of the voice with apparent disregard for the words employed. For instance, a dog caught in the midst of a destructive act and given a severe scolding in a sharp tone of voice will slink away with his tail between his legs; whereas under exactly the same circumstances, he will continue his destructiveness if admonished in a soft, loving tone of voice.

Still another example is concerned with many dogs which had been trained in Europe' and which, when brought to me, did not understand English words. It was of course comparatively easy to change into English the complete list of commands, signs and words so that the dogs could be re-trained in that language. I soon discovered however that a dog trained to the order "Gib Pfote" (shake hands) would not respond to English, but that when I offered my hand he would respond at once. Though he could not understand the words, he did recognize the *sign* which, like the inflection of the voice, is the same in any language.

Further proof of the dog's lack of reasoning power is supplied by the dog that lies in front of the fireplace. The moment the log burns down he seeks a warmer spot. Other logs, close at hand, have only to be put on the fire to keep it burning, and this the dog upon innumerable occasions has seen his master do. Yet he will not do it nor can he be taught to do it for himself. If he can reason, then why does he not do exactly what his master did **in** order to provide more heat!

Thus far in our analysis we have discussed the voice as a means of attracting the dog's attention through the ear. The *voice* then is for his sense of HEARING. Next is the *sign* for his sense of SIGHT; and third, the quality of *sensitiveness* or perception through FEELING. On these three senses we will build our entire scheme of

training. Later on we will take up the sense of *smell* for trailing. But first we must have an *obedient* dog, so we will use the three senses—hearing, sight and feeling—in order to lay the foundation stone of all training which is OBEDIENCE.

Bearing **in** mind that our object is to train a dumb animal for companionship we can, by appeal through these three senses, accomplish great things. We can, for instance, save the dog much unnecessary punishment brought about by our own impatience: we can save ourselves the physical strain of the dog's constant pulling upon the leash. True, we do not want a mechanical robot, rendering blind obedience to our every command, but we do want a real companion as close to us in understanding as man and dog can ever be. The three senses, then, operate in combination by our use of short commands issued in varying intonations; by certain important signs of the hands made in conjunction with the voice, and by appeal to the sense of feeling by encouragement or punishment.

Perhaps right here I should caution the reader against the wrong impression which the word punishment may connote. Because punishment in this discussion does not mean whipping or starving the dog, I dislike to use the expression at all. It signifies, rather, correction, so for present purposes let us employ the term *correction* as more exactly indicative.

Like bright colored threads predominating in a pattern, the use of the three mentioned senses will follow through the whole of our training. And just how important the combination of the three becomes, we will realize when we see how the dog associates with HEARING, commands given by means of words; with SEEING, commands given by means of signs; and with FEELING, such things as petting and leash correction. Were the trainer to disregard even one of these senses, he would straightway find out why he, or the dog, failed in one or another lesson. Particularly are there signs, frequently almost unnoticeable to the layman and the amateur, which will mean the success or failure of the lesson.

And what of the trainer himself! There are three fundamentals with which he must be concerned—PATIENCE, CONCENTRATION and SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE.

Patience is probably the trainer's most necessary tool. Nervousness, quick temper or the slightest impatience never go hand in hand with successful training, and a person subject to any one of these failings may well think twice before he undertakes to train a dog. Easier far is it to spoil a dog than to correct him afterwards.

Of almost equal importance is the matter of concentration. No one in the whole wide world can train a dog and carry on a conversation at the same time ... it would be like attempting to drive a car while reading a news-

paper. It cannot be done. Immediately sensing a trainer's divided attention, the dog will respond to it not by implicit obedience but by a type of obedience perhaps more to his own liking. And the trainer, not quite aware of the pupil's mistakes, can never obtain correct results. So he places the blame on someone else; rarely on himself. If you would train a dog, then, forget everything that goes on about you: if you would do a really commendable job, CONCENTRATE.

Many times have I been criticized for apparent rudeness when I have refused to take part in conversations during the training period. But a serious trainer must realize how much is involved in schooling a dog untried, and of character unknown: throughout each lesson, he must study his pupil without interruption, and his attention must be given equally, in succession, to each and every dog. Training periods are comparatively short, hence it is not unduly difficult to concentrate entirely upon the dog in hand.

Another consideration vital to successful training is SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE. Ask yourself whether you are really determined to train your dog. Is this dog under your hand to become a well behaved animal? Or is he going to be a spoiled pest, inclined to destructiveness; vicious with people, an eternal barker, constantly committing nuisance! Once you have decided to train your dog, purchase of this book will constitute the initial step toward

that end. Then study it. Don't just read it and put it down. Study it, and study it again and again.

You will find that the work of training entails some sacrifices, but they are sacrifices worth while. For in addition to the pleasure derived from participation in organized obedience test competition, you will discover before very long that your dog is admired and respected because he is so well behaved. And if you are sufficiently interested to continue on with your training, who knows but that this dog of yours may some day prove to be a real, front page hero by virtue of some outstanding act! Dogs owned by several of my pupils have already served the public good by helping the police to find lost persons, and by trailing and so leading to the capture of criminals.

Founded upon a thoroughly tried and approved system, the patient training of a dog by his beloved master is a worthy and satisfying work which not alone actually benefits the dog but which reflects credit upon him and upon his owner. All this at a sacrifice of but fifteen or, at the most, thirty minutes a day!

EQUIPMENT

After thoroughly digesting the psychology of dog training as outlined in the chapter preceding, the prospective trainer is now ready to begin work in earnest. I am not going to overburden the amateur with a lot of unnecessary instructions or remarks that might bore him to the point of diluting his interest or of dampening his enthusiasm. I will, however, stress the several points of importance as they appear in the course of the lessons, and at the same time explain the reasons why certain pieces of equipment are needed.

A correct outfit of course is indispensable for training. A mechanic cannot do a creditable job without proper tools: neither can a trainer achieve satisfactory results unless he has the right equipment for his dog. And by equipment I mean the correct type of collar, the right sort of leash, and all the rest of the trainer's tools which, expertly selected, may mean the difference between success and failure.

People often arrive at the training field armed with the strangest outfits; and sometimes it requires all my powers of persuasion to convince them that they are unsuitable. A harness, for instance, is totally unfit, especially for the

large dog which pulls on the leash until he well nigh paralyzes his master's arm. True, a special harness may be advised later for trailing, but for the beginner it is a hindrance because it does not permit the handler to keep a green dog under control. The collar is the only means by which perfect control can be exerted. The thin chain, intended as a leash, also is incorrect and even dangerous—many are the hands burned and cut from using such a contrivance.

Another piece of equipment against which I warn is the plain choke collar. In order to obtain results with a collar of this type, the guide must pull on the choke to the point of strangling the dog until he loses his breath. I have seen dogs with necks strained and seriously injured from being trained with choke collars simply because of the strength that can be exerted when the guide brings the dog up short with a quick, hard jerk. But never have I observed the dog with the tiniest red mark on his neck from wearing the ordinary training collar.

It is this training collar that I wish to explain fully. Almost every conscientious trainer will recommend it, not only for the purpose of saving the guide the arm strain caused by the dog's constant pulling, but as a means of doing away with that worst of all punishers, the whip. The training collar is a well-thought-out, cruelty preventing device which at the same time assists in systematic training. Its inside prongs, being blunt, cannot pierce the

skin; in fact, no injury to my knowledge has ever been caused by this type of collar.

Unfortunately, hearsay and superficial knowledge has led to condemnation of the training collar on sight by many people unaware of its real purpose or of its actual method of use. Those who would endeavor to have these collars prohibited, I would like to convince of their error. The point is that this collar I recommend is the most definite help in the training of all dogs, refractory or otherwise; and once trained, the dog is forever removed from drastic methods of abuse like whipping which at times have been resorted to by the very people who deplore the training collar.

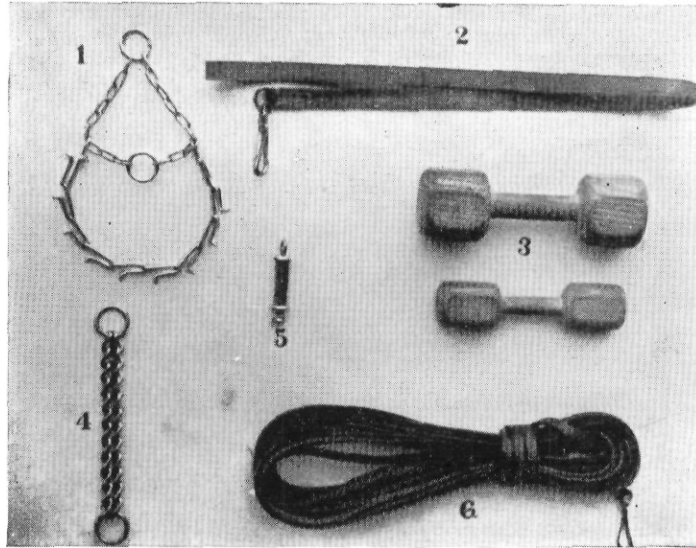
Some years ago I was offered a good price to train a certain shepherd dog to stop his attacks upon people. A shepherd man at heart, I considered this breed the king of working dogs, but the moment I saw this big fellow T knew the reason for the trouble. Due possibly to constant petting and coddling, this dog was as spoiled an animal as could be found. He considered everybody and everything fit subject for attack. Yet when I suggested that the owner start the dog on a series of obedience lessons in order first to get him under control, my advice relative to the training collar met with strong resistance. To speak plainly, I have never heard a more radical condemnation of the training collar than that given by this

man in direct disregard of my own knowledge and experience.

A short time later I was called to the man's home where I found everyone in a state of great excitement. Following attacks upon several people, the dog had been shot by the police, and the owner asked me to act as witness against a neighbor and against the police who had killed the dog. This of course I refused to do. But, looking at the body of the poor dog, as he lay there mutilated with eleven bullets, I asked the owner this question: Who do you consider more inhuman? These men who killed your dog in order to defend others, or you yourself, the man who disregarded my advice when I told you how to make a real friend and companion of your dog through proper training? Reluctantly he admitted his mistake.

Another incident worth relating occurred several years ago. When he saw the training collar my own dog Bodo had been wearing for seven years, a man claimed that I was cruel to the dog. The collar aroused his ire, and in ignorance of its true value, he asked me to wear it! Carefully I explained to him how wrong it was to compare a human being with an animal. I told him to consider that the skin of a dog, many times tougher than the skin of man, can be tanned to make leather while the skin of a human being cannot. Even would it be impossible for a man to wear a plain leather collar without consequent abrasion of the skin.

Now just one more point on the subject of the training collar in the hope of convincing the reader what this collar means to the dog; in the hope also of proving that it is

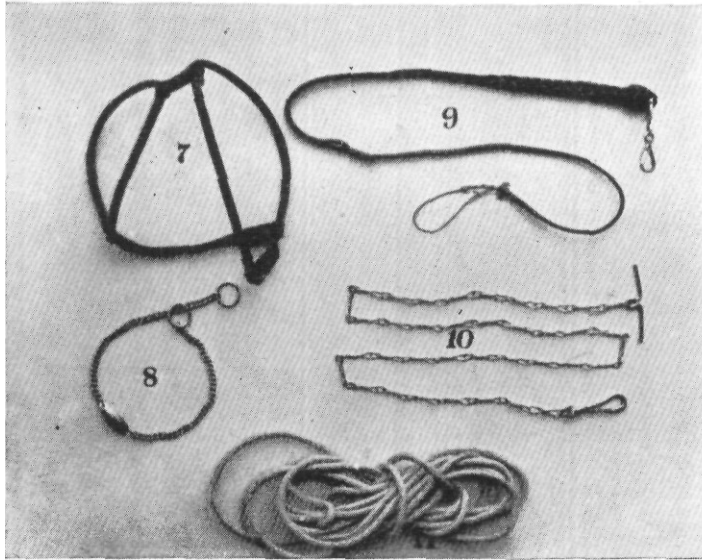


CORRECT EQUIPMENT

1. The training collar which, reversed, can be used as an ordinary collar—note its limited choke. 2. Hand leash whose three-foot length is suitable for any dog. 3. Retrieving dumbbells for large and small dogs. 4. Chainette or throwing chain. 5. Whistle. 6. Longe or long leash, of flat material

anything but cruel. We cannot perhaps actually humanize a dog. We can, however, have successfully trained, well educated dogs, without making machines of them. To be thoroughly convinced of the truth of this statement, you have only to attend one of my classes, where

you will be quite welcome and where you will see for yourself how admirably the dogs work wearing training collars. Unfortunately, many join these classes only after



INCORRECT EQUIPMENT

7. The harness, however attractive, is useless for training. 8. The strangle collar which, though quite innocuous in appearance, is an instrument of torture in the hands of the beginner because of its unlimited choke. 9. The whip leash should never be found in the hands of the dog lover. 10. The chain leash—most impractical. 11. The long leash, made of rounded clothesline, will invariably tangle.

they have gotten into trouble with an unmanageable dog, and sometimes they expect correction too quickly. For such cases, especially where the dog's fighting spirit has been allowed to develop, the training collar is a necessity. It is always a pleasure when someone brings along a

puppy for the purpose of asking advice about preparation for training when the dog has reached the proper age. Much trouble can be prevented, and considerable work saved, if education is begun early. Naturally, however, it is not advisable to use the training collar on puppies.

This collar can be used for another purpose also: by reversing it, it can take the place of a plain collar. Due to its very limited choking effect, it cannot do as much harm as the ordinary choke collar with its veritable strangling propensity.

Now that we know what a training collar is, and how best to use it, let us consider next the leash.

A good, leather leash which is necessary for the purpose of keeping the dog under control before he is actually leash-broken, should be strong enough to hold the dog according to his size. Avoid the chain leash because of its cutting strain upon the trainer's hands—even small dogs like fox terriers and dachshunds possess an almost unbelievable pulling power.

The whip leash, the kind made in the form of a whip with a snap hook at the end, I condemn unreservedly. You have only to use such a leash once as a whip, to find that the dog eyes it with mixed feelings whenever he goes out of doors. How is he to know whether he is invited out for fun and play or for a whipping! This bit of faulty equipment can lay the foundation for shyness, one of the most difficult things to conquer in all dog training, so by

all means let us abolish use of the whip leash right at the start.

In addition to the short, leather leash, we will need the "longe" or long leash, no more than about ten yards in length and of flat material to prevent dangling. This equipment is not needed in the beginning, but it will prove of real service in later lessons; in fact, it would require too much space to explain the various uses of the long leash. Suffice it to state here that its chief purpose is for bringing the dog under control at a distance, for preventing him from chasing automobiles, cats, horses, etc.

Another necessity is the chainette or throwing chain, a plain chain, closed at both ends and devoid of any sharp edges. For necessary punishment or correction to be effective, we must keep our hands off the dog; moreover, the article used to administer punishment must not be visible. This of course is impossible when a whip is used. While holding a whip in your hand, call a dog to you. Fear of the whip will prompt him to approach you hesitatingly, his tail between his legs. And he will not come all the way, but will remain at some distance, out of reach.

The chainette produces an entirely different reaction, After it is thrown, the dog will turn to you for protection and, if encouraged by friendly words, he will approach you more quickly because he sees nothing to arouse his suspicion. Do not allow him to see you pick up the

chainette. This whole procedure, even though of corrective intent, creates in the dog, the sense of being controlled by awakening *him* to the fact that we can reach him from any direction, from any distance. And we can get him under control more quickly and more effectively than by chasing him with the whip. To attempt going after him sends him farther away. But hit him lightly just a few times and he will straightway associate the rattling of the chainette with the thing which struck him, and soon the mere shaking of the chainette or a bunch of keys, even, will be sufficient warning against attempted or desired disobedience. He will come at once when called.

In some cases a whistle will be found essential to the trainer's equipment. Oftentimes in the woods and on large estates, or even in very stormy weather, the sound of a call or command is carried away by the wind. In instances of this kind I advise a plain, sharp whistle, if possible different in tone or volume from the usual police whistle which might confuse the dog if heard on the street. The same must be said of the so-called "silent whistles" now on the market: they possess the disadvantage of being heard by every dog and for class training they are of no use at all.

To complete the equipment a dumbbell is needed for retrieving. Many specialty clubs have standard sizes and weights according to the size of the dog. The main thing is that it should not be too heavy, and that it should have

enough space between the ends so that the dog can pick it up without difficulty. The material should be of hard wood that will not splinter.



The flapping coat constitutes an interference. It prevents the dog from following close to the guide's side.

And now some suggestions to the amateur guide or beginner. Not infrequently the dress or suit of the guide is confusing. Do not, therefore, wear long skirts or coats

during training for they permit the dog only a limited vision, and cause him to stay away from the guide or to follow possibly at too great a distance.

A perhaps unconscious fault of the fair sex engaged in training work is the wearing of extremely high heels. Often have I observed with six-inch heels, women scarcely able to balance themselves on the ground, trying to keep a dog following after them. And the dog . . . it looks as though he expects his guide to do a double somersault at any moment, and he keeps at a safe distance. Actually, it's impossible to get him close to the knee for, apparently sensing this lack of sure footing in his guide, he feels himself in the path of a fall! May I add that the training field is no place for a fashion show and that this type of footwear should be eliminated throughout training practise!

PRAISE AND PUNISHMENT

"It is impossible to train a dog through his skin or his stomach," is a well known saying, and the trainer who attempts it will never attain success. And when someone exclaims that his dog is more obedient when whipped, I am constrained to inquire exactly *how* that dog obeys. It will be found that he obeys invariably through fear which is just the opposite of what we want. A dog ought to work with pep, and joy, with shining eyes, willing to repeat on command at any moment for his beloved master. Surely we do not want him to obey shivering, with his tail between his legs, and waiting only for the moment when the command is finished so that he can slip away at the first opportunity out of reach of the master who abuses him!

Shyness is caused by wrong treatment or abuse; by hitting, pinching or whipping. As such abuse originates in the hands, the dog at first becomes hand-shy and, suspicious that he will be punished for everything he does, he loses confidence in his master. In other words, he grows master-shy. No dog is born shy. All puppies come joyfully no matter who calls them. If the mother is shy, it is natural that the puppies should reflect her attitude

as long as she remains with the litter. For this reason, the puppies of a shy mother should be taken from her at the age of eight weeks.

Every dog considers his acts as right. And from his standpoint *they are right*. For instance, he tackles the man who reads the gas meter. Suspicious of the intruder's movement with his flashlight, he considers it his duty to protect his master's property. Wherefore, it becomes our duty to divert the dog's thinking to other channels, not by whipping, abuse or starving for it cannot be done that way. By means of our own mental superiority we must discipline him in a sensible way to do what we want. We must make him understand that acts of his, of which we do not approve, can only result in discomfort for him.

Of course the dog should receive praise when he does right; nevertheless, praise ought to be administered as sensibly as punishment else it will tend to produce quite the opposite effect. In fact, the dog that is over-praised and over-coddled often becomes spoiled, destructive and disobedient. I do not like to see owners petting, even kissing, their dogs in public for no apparent reason: such conduct is detrimental to the best interests of all dogs in that it seems to further inflame dog haters. Yes, those who really love dogs, as I do, realize that, insofar as caressing a dog in public is concerned, a gentlemanly restraint is the finest advertisement of true regard for our friend the dog.

It is the problem of the owner to allot praise and punishment consistent with the dog's nature. Naturally throughout all training a dog of soft character needs more praise than a dog of good strong character. Regardless of individuality, however, when the dog performs in perfect harmony with his lesson, he should be praised, but in moderation. And I believe it need not be added that no dog should be given praise or punishment without good reason.

I myself invariably hesitate to administer punishment for fear the dog may not have understood what was required of him. Frequently, the lesson must be repeated again and again, in a different way even, for the purpose of making the order clear. When the dog does not respond the first or the second time, the guide must not lose his temper: he must try it all over once more. To strike the dog is to inspire fear, whereupon he may be apprehensive about doing even the right thing through dread of punishment.

It is quite different when a dog goes through his lesson several times correctly, then out of sheer stubbornness refuses to repeat it. This is the time for definite but short punishment such as a jerk at the collar, or a hit with the chainette. But never whip a dog: never do as one trainer, so-called, recommended: "take him by the ears and shake him." Not only is punishment of this kind absolutely useless as a form of correction, it is detrimental to all fu-

ture training because, as previously outlined, it is done with the hands which must as far as possible *be kept away front the dog* when punishment is administered. Important also is your conduct after the dog has been punished. Immediately go through one or two commands with him. Give him some slight praise, then make up with him by a little play in order to restore his confidence. Do not, however, mix praise with punishment.

The word NO, or SHAME will constitute the lightest form of reprimand, while the most drastic is the throwing of the chainette. The first mentioned can be employed as a warning in connection with any lesson, whereas the latter should be used with caution and only when it is certain that the dog understands the command but will not respond. Do not punish in any way at all when a dog docs not know his lesson, or when it requires what seems to you to be too long a time for him to grasp it. Be quick to look for faults in yourself, and make allowances for the dog as a creature devoid of reasoning power. And don't forget that you are his mental superior. Once more, let me say, keep your temper. If you cannot control yourself, you can never control anyone else, much less a dog!

Nevertheless we must be strict, and accurate, during training. We must see to it that every command is carried out with exactness, otherwise the dog will not regard his training seriously, and success will be doubtful. Don't be sentimental: be firm if you would expect results. Things

easy are seldom truly successful. Quite to the contrary, results achieved by patient, hard work are alone enduring.

While on this subject of punishment I would like to mention a case that should prove of interest to dog lovers as well as to trainers. Several years ago a man asked me what to do about a dog which would never work in field trials unless he gave him a beating beforehand. The rules governing field trials in Germany are very strict, and the use of whip or training collar at trials is forbidden. Consequently this man had never won a trial despite the fact that his dog was well trained. He was not, of course, permitted to use the whip before the examinations began.

I kept this dog in my kennel for a week and after I had won his complete confidence by feeding him, I started practising. The first lesson surprised me for though I knew the dog had been well trained, he would not do a thing! Never have I seen a more stubborn animal. I tried every exercise ten or fifteen different ways, always avoiding use of the whip, of course, for the simple reason that I could not bring myself to believe the owner's statement about the whip being necessary. My resources were at an end!

As a last resort, I cut a soft branch from a nearby tree and, with it in my hand, I approached the dog. Down he went, wagging his tail like a puppy ready for play as he awaited me. Even then I could not whip him because it is against my principles. So I started to beat the ground

close beside him. Each time I hit the ground, the dog was filled apparently with a convulsive excitement. Then I threw the switch away, whereupon the dog shook himself as if rousing from a pleasant nap. Again I began the lesson with almost unbelievable results!

He went through all the exercises with such lightning speed that it was a pleasure to work with him. Every day after that, I increased the distance of the simulated whipping and, after ten days, I found I could beat the ground a hundred feet away and get exactly the same effect. This dog later won many field trials and eventually became one of Germany's outstanding working dogs. And may I add that the owner has always given me full credit for his success!

This is a striking case of animal masochism which of course is rare. From it I have reached the following conclusion: If you have a dog that has been accustomed to the whip and you think you cannot get along "without it, try using it as I have described here. Truly, it is painless punishment, more effective than a real whipping. Hit the ground close to the dog, then watch results.

PUPPY EDUCATION

From Puppy to Junior Dog

Because it is impossible to really train a puppy, I have purposely entitled this chapter "education." For a puppy is educated rather than trained. Practically every owner purchases a puppy with the intention of raising it to a full grown dog that will afford him pleasure later on. If, however, the youngster is not brought up in the right way, he will prove a disappointment in many particulars. And so, in order to avoid trouble, and because a good education may be said to constitute one half of training, it is advisable to begin systematic education as early as possible. There are just a few sacrifices required of the owner and the dog but these the true dog lover will gladly make.

The housebreaking of the puppy will prove the initial test as to whether the dog owner is to develop into a dog lover. This is a comparatively simple job, but if it is deemed too onerous or too annoying, then let me recommend that the puppy be given up immediately. True, it is not pleasant to clean up every morning. It is not so nice to keep a cloth or a mop forever at hand to do away with those disagreeable little souvenirs the puppy leaves in his path while travelling the road to junior dog, but this is one

of the obstacles that must be surmounted. And while I myself have had puppies absolutely housebroken at the age of ten weeks, I know that this is unusual unless early bad habits are quickly overcome in the right manner. There are too, unfortunately, grown dogs which are not clean, but the fault lies with the owner rather than with the dog.

As an example of how correction can be made, it may interest puppy owners to learn of an experience of mine some thirty years ago. I had what I considered to be a "problem child" . . . not actually a problem child at all, merely a case rendered difficult through my own lack of sufficient housebreaking experience. I tried slipping a newspaper under this youngster whenever he started to misbehave, with the result that when he felt the urge, he straightway began to search for a floor covering approximating a newspaper. Thus my daily newspaper, delivered each morning through a slot in the door, became his favorite depository!

I saw I was on the wrong track so I endeavored to make him use the balcony. I was unfamiliar with the regular feeding schedule, and naturally, due to late feeding, I had to let him out often during the night. The most convenient thing for me was to open the balcony door. In an amazingly short time, the puppy grew so accustomed to this spot that even during the day, when I had had him outside for hours, he became so absolutely "street clean,"

that he would run to the balcony immediately upon reaching home. This goes to show how easily a puppy can be induced to accept routine which develops into a habit. I broke him, however, of this habit by washing the balcony with a solution of creolin whose unpleasant odor prompted him to shun the place thereafter.

Observation of a puppy's natural habits will prove of the greatest assistance in housebreaking. He will of course require relief immediately upon awakening, and shortly after each meal. Also, the excitement of playing will cause him frequently to forget his manners. But if you watch closely you will notice the signs he gives. Ordinarily, he will run around and around, as if seeking a place. That is the time to pick him up by the back of the neck and carry him outdoors. The experience of being held in this manner, and of being carried outdoors, will enable him to catch on quickly to what is wanted.

The average puppy never soils the place where he sleeps, consequently when he is a bit older, he can be fastened close to his sleeping quarters, when he will very shortly learn to restrain himself and seek a place other than that in his immediate vicinity. It is hardly fair to feed and water a dog late at night and then expect him to be clean until late next morning.

And now, just one thing more about doors. If there are several doors to the room, when it is necessary to carry the puppy out or to open the door so he may go out by

himself, use the same door each time to avoid confusion in his mind. Don't above all push the puppy's nose **in** his filth as a corrective measure. Accomplishing nothing insofar as the puppy is concerned, this type of "education" generally shows ill temper on the part of the owner, and as we have previously remarked, ill temper has no place in conscientious training.

Regularity in the entire regimen will be found of marked assistance in housebreaking the puppy, that is, institute a definite feeding schedule and permit nothing to interfere with previously planned meal-times. Then, take the puppy out at stated intervals, at least every three hours or so, in order to encourage regular habits.

Take him if possible to spots in the yard that have been visited by other dogs for this is one of the best methods of explaining to the little fellow what he is taken out for. He will not be long in recognizing the chief purpose of that particular place. Females especially will prefer certain chosen places even in later years, though males, if not taught otherwise, will develop the bad habit of stopping at every tree. When handling dogs in training, I have found this a very difficult habit to break but it is one of the first things I make it a point to do.

Should it so happen that the puppy forgets himself, don't strike him or punish him. It will only make him hand-shy and afraid of his owner; furthermore, it will be hard to regain his confidence. And should he select dark

places—underneath the bed, closets and dim corners—to hide his misdemeanors, clean them up with a strong solution of disinfectant to eliminate the unpleasant odor and to make the puppy shun the same place again.

Puppy "Training"

How long ought we to consider the puppy a puppy? And for him, at what period does the seriousness of life begin? Important questions, these, which have definite bearing upon the puppy's proper handling. For one thing, there comes a time when we must make it clear to him that there is a difference between being cute and being destructive.

The foundation of many a bad habit is formed between the age of four and six months, a time when naughtiness is tolerated, even soft-heartedly excused as "cute." It does look cute, too, when a tiny tot tries perhaps to catch a pigeon and appears mischievously concerned as the pigeon rapidly takes to the air; but such an act may later blossom into the trick of chasing after chickens, bicycles, automobiles and other fast moving objects thereby endangering the lives of all who ride.

Another embryo bad habit is started on its way when the puppy sits beside the dinner table, turning his head this way and that to get the scent of food and finally barking his indignation at what he considers too long a wait for a tidbit. To tolerate begging and unnecessary

barking one time as cute, and another time to banish the youngster peremptorily from the table, is to tempt him to take by stealing something he cannot get in his accustomed manner.

Too, considerable hilarity is occasioned when the little fellow shakes a rag, loses his balance and falls over his own feet. Persisted in without correction, this trick may later find substituted for the old rag such valuables as silk stockings, carpets, curtains and such, and no longer is the trick held as cute.

It may also appear quite engaging to watch the young puppy attempt an attack upon another dog, in a playful way dashing after him despite the calls of the owner and in total disregard of the dangers of the street. Now such things as dog righting, and not coming when called can sometimes be traced to too much liberty in playing with other dogs without control, as the puppy approaches the age of junior dog. Many more examples might be cited illustrative of puppy cuteness as the excuse for the formation of later bad habits, but the above I believe will suffice to make the point clear.

Until the puppy is six months old, give him as much liberty as possible. When out of doors, keep him on leash only where traffic may be dangerous: unleash him where he may play safely with other dogs, though always within sight of his master. Plenty of fresh air and play are essential to the puppy, while experience on leash in traffic is

necessary in order that he may become accustomed to crowds and autos and unexpected noises, this principally to prevent the development of shyness. Puppyhood is the time to teach the little fellow that nothing is dangerous so long as he is on leash and in close proximity to his master. From four to six months of age is the time to begin primary education. For the first time he hears spoken in a friendly voice the command HEEL! Let us proceed then with the lesson.

Heel

With the puppy leashed and on the left side, walk at the regular pace, from time to time repeating the word HEEL slowly. Accompany the command by a little slap on your left leg and occasionally by stooping down as you pet and say to him, "That's fine, that's good," etc. Pay no attention if he pulls but walk straight ahead. He'll have to follow if you do not stop. Should his resistance prove too strong, or if he attempts to break away, or run in front of you or too far to the left, it may be advisable to practise the lesson near a wall. He will then be between you and the wall, and will be compelled to follow at your left side. If he grows excited, quiet him down with a soft-spoken, HEEL! After a little while he will find it best to obey.

Much subsequent correction will be saved if this lesson is executed correctly in the beginning, and surprising

progress can be noted if it is practised daily for about ten minutes whenever the dog is taken out. Avoid such varied commands as "Here," "Come along," etc. That single word HEEL is the order the little pupil must always hear; it means to come, to follow at the left side whenever it is desired. With that word he must be made familiar from the start.

If the dog is able—and many puppies are, especially those of the larger breeds—to begin right with the entire heeling lesson as described in the next chapter, no harm will be done, nevertheless he ought not to be worked over too great a distance. Overwork has a tendency to make the pupil lethargic, perhaps even shy, whereas a sensible amount of directed effort will imbue him with a real love of obedience and of work with no possible fear of it. When the puppy has learned to HEEL correctly, he can go on to the next exercise, SIT.

Sit

After having been brought to your left side in standing position, the puppy hears the command SIT! Now holding the leash in the right hand as close to the collar as possible, lift up on it. At the same time place the left hand on the lower portion of the dog's back and press him down into a sitting position. In other words, the right hand lifts the forepart of the dog up for the purpose of support, while the other hand pushes the hindparts to

the floor or ground, thus bringing him to the proper sitting position. Surprised at this sudden movement on your part, the majority of dogs attempt to break away. At this point it is of the utmost importance that the owner or trainer should not change his position.

Repeat the command several times and before long the dog will grasp it and obey. Of course, we cannot expect the puppy to work as well as the grown dog: we should be satisfied, for the moment, to have him sit even though he does it slowly. Practise this lesson daily for about ten minutes in connection with HEELING. Use it during the day at any opportunity which presents itself, when feeding, for example, when going out for a walk, etc. Later when real training begins we shall see its advantages.

Absolutely essential is a friendly attitude toward the puppy at all times. Talk to him, play with him, and as you play—and this is important—have handy a stick or a ball which he should be encouraged to retrieve. Throw the ball out and **in** a friendly manner urge him to pick it up and bring it back to you. Every puppy enjoys running after a ball, after anything in fact that rolls along the ground. Don't expect him to retrieve correctly in the truest sense of the word; but if we start retrieving as play we can accomplish a great deal toward rendering the more advanced retrieving lesson easier for the puppy to grasp when the time comes. So often have I found that the good retriever is more readily trained than some-

times I build my entire training schedule on this foundation.

The puppy has now learned to HEEL and to SIT. Furthermore he is interested in retrieving. We will continue with these lessons until the youngster is eight or nine months of age when real work begins.

OBEDIENCE

Obedience is the foundation of all training. It forms the greater part of everything we do, and each faulty act throughout the course of training can be traced to a lack of obedience during those first exercises, HEEL, SIT, DOWN and COME WHEN CALLED. Every single dog, irrespective of the kind of training given,—for moving pictures, for the stage, for Red Cross or police work—starts off with a ground work of obedience. And may I emphasize again and again that these exercises must be repeated in connection with all lessons. If the dog is not efficient in them, he will never do well when he begins with the real training.

We have to take into consideration that the dog at hand has in all probability been raised from puppyhood under different conditions wherein he has been given no definite commands, and only random talk. Naturally he becomes more or less upset and confused when he hears commands of just a few short words. Patience and self control on the part of the guide are vital.

It is quite possible that the exercises must be repeated several times before the dog understands clearly what is wanted, thus it would be highly detrimental to use force

or any semblance of harshness. If he pulls on the leash, a training collar should be used, but after he has learned to heel, even though perhaps not quite correctly, he should be tried again for a while without the training collar. If, however, he continues to pull after a reasonable length of time, then resort once more to the collar.

Remember that the dog is always to be at the guide's left, for practically all training is designed for handling him on this side. Soon both dog and guide will discover that the left hand is the friendly one, ever ready to pet and encourage, whereas the right hand is the one which metes out punishment when punishment is required. Throughout the course of lessons to come, the dog learns to love the guide's left hand; to respect the right hand. He learns that all things uncomfortable come from that right hand, whether it be the poisoned meat test, a jerk on the leash, the throw of the chainette or even the holding of the deadly weapon such as the gun or the stiletto. In case of attack the offender, facing the defender, will use his right hand, thus providing the dog with a much better opportunity to protect his master from the left side. Further, the carried bundle or suitcase will not interfere with correct heeling at the guide's left side inasmuch as objects of this kind are ordinarily carried in one's right hand.

As to the method of addressing the dog, give all commands in a friendly though determined tone of voice, loud

enough to be understood but not so loud as to frighten. And the instant the dog reacts correctly to the order and does the right thing, praise him a bit. Bear in mind, though, that praise too oft repeated will encourage the dog to jump at the guide and possibly to forget for the moment the command given. The same thing will happen when commands are spoken in sing-song or too friendly manner.

For the initial training I recommend a fenced-in, or indoor place where the guide can get the dog under control in the event he breaks away. A room filled with furniture is not suitable, especially for HEELING exercises because it offers too many hiding places for the dog.

From now on the proper commands should be employed at all times, in-doors, out-doors, in short, everywhere. Commands are to be short, and different in sound for the sake of avoiding errors or undesirable associations with other commands. HEEL will signify that the dog must come and remain in position at the guide's left side . . . just that single word, HEEL. Remember then to avoid wordy commands such as the "Come here," "Can't you hear me?", or "What did I tell you!" so frequently heard.

Important likewise is it to use these new commands always, especially about the house. The whole idea of training is to make a companion of the dog, which with heart and soul will obey the wishes of his guide. A com-

panion is our aim, not a sort of mechanical instrument that works like a machine on the training field. Nor is the dog the only member of this partnership who puts his heart and soul both into his work. To derive the full joy of companionship, the guide too must put his heart and soul into the endeavor. The language the guide speaks to his dog should come from his heart as well as from his lips, for only in that way can the bond of companionship be lastingly strengthened.

FIRST LESSON

HEELING ON THE LEASH

HEELING means that the dog accompanies his guide, walking at the guide's left side. All too often we find that the novice guide follows after the dog, allowing himself to be pulled here, there or wherever the dog wills to go. That habit of letting the dog take the lead will have to be broken and the dog taught to **HEEL**, in other words, to follow the guide with no pulling or straining at the leash.

Fasten to the dog's collar, (a training collar if necessary) a good, strong leash of about three feet in length. A leash longer than three feet would give the dog more liberty which is exactly what we wish to avoid. The dog will be taught to follow *closely* at the left side, therefore the long leash would prove a handicap by allowing too much freedom of movement. This would tend to confuse him with regard to the use of those signs and signals which later on replace verbal orders.

Moreover, the liberty permitted by the extra long leash

enables the dog to veer to the right or the left, in front or perhaps suddenly behind the guide; and before the animal can be drawn back to position, he may have become tangled up with someone approaching from the opposite direction. Or he may have wound himself around a tree or a post, all of which can be successfully prevented by the use of the short, three-foot leash.

Considering the fact that as training advances, the leash will be controlled by the left hand alone, it should be held only for the purpose of guidance. It is therefore quite important that we handle it properly. Correct handling of the leash while teaching the HEEL exercise will have considerable bearing on the success of the exercises to follow. So by all means let me advise the guide to follow these instructions to the letter.

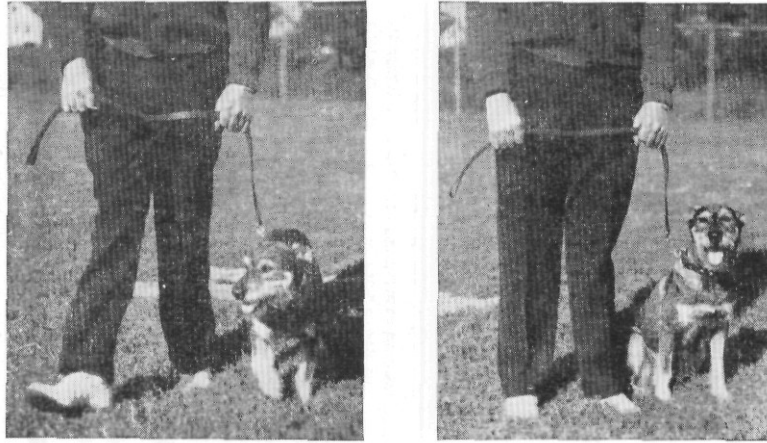
THE COMMAND—HEEL

The Sign—a light slap given by the guide's left hand against his left leg.

At the command HEEL, the dog should follow as closely as possible, with slack leash, at the left side of the guide, the dog's shoulder being close to the guide's left knee.

Hold the leash in the right hand, with the hand dropped at the side. With the left hand, give SIGN, then grasp the leash near the collar, holding the hand close to the left side,

the grip loose so that the hand may be slipped back and forth either to shorten or to lengthen the leash as may be necessary. Study the illustration below. Starting off at a fast pace, though not a run, and keeping the dog's head



Heeling—The correct starting position.

near the knee, utter the command **HEEL** at intervals. Prolong the sound as indicated, and speak distinctly.

What is the immediate reaction? The dog will attempt to pull away, to forge ahead, stop, pull backwards or to one side. Or possibly he will not walk at all.

THE CORRECTION: Reactions such as those just mentioned are usually due to the fact that the guide gives the dog too much leash, or that he changes the position of his hands and arms. The left hand and arm must be held quite stiff and, if the dog is large, the hand should be near

the collar. If on the other hand, the dog is small, then the hand may be farther away from the collar.

But step off quickly and do not stop even when the dog resists. Just continue to walk, carrying him along with you. Don't stop. Don't look behind you. Don't look at the dog. He will follow as long as you are moving. You can tell well enough whether he is close beside you as he should be. Should he balk or try to forge ahead, shorten your hold upon the leash in order to keep him from falling behind or from pulling ahead. It need not disturb you if he does develop these traits, just keep on going. Very shortly he will learn that he is much more comfortable if he stops pulling and follows amicably.

Here is another method that may prove useful. If the dog lags too far behind, change the leash to the right hand, at the same time keeping him at your left side. Let the leash drop ever so slightly in front of you so that your every step will cause a jerk on the collar, reminding the dog that, if he would avoid this self-inflicted punishment, he must keep up with his guide. If he walks too rapidly or pulls forward, the identical method may be used except that in this case the leash is passed behind the guide instead of in front of him.

Practise this lesson for about ten minutes when first you start out, and use right and left turns occasionally, at each turn commanding HEEL to attract the dog's attention. From the very beginning, these exercises should



CORRECT

Heeling—The dog close to the guide's left side.



CORRECT

Heeling on a loose leash.

be executed at a rapid pace in order to keep the dog in a peppy condition. If the guide is slow-gaited, easy going, the dog will reflect his attitude and never be a snappy worker. No one likes to see a dog respond to commands in a sleepy sort of way, and at field trials and obedience tests the peppy dog will invariably win over the slow, more deliberate performer. Let me repeat, then; if the guide would have a snappy worker under his hand, he must put snap into his own actions.

Another way in which a dog may be kept close to the guide's side when passing a tree or a post is to lead him right up to it. He will try to go around it only to find himself trapped. Stop for a moment and let him wiggle himself out of his predicament but on no occasion go back to him. Next time he will stay close beside his guide and make no attempt to deviate from his course.

Now this is of particular importance: Always remember to repeat the command, H E E L from time to time, according to the character of the dog. Should he react slowly or give evidence of fear, issue the command in a voice designed to encourage, to pep him up. Add to the command a few, shall we say rousing words, such as "That's fine!". . ."That's it!" or something of the kind. On the other hand, if he starts off in high strung fashion, as it were, over-loaded with electricity make an effort to quiet him down to prevent too much pulling. Slow down your pace, use your right hand at the height



INCORRECT

The dog is on the wrong side. He should be close at the guide's left.



INCORRECT

The leash is too long; right hand gives the sign Down.



INCORRECT

The leash is too short and the dog is pulling.

of the left elbow and at the same time give the command HEEL, slowly.

Personally, I like a peppy dog much better than a slow one; with him, I believe more satisfactory results can be obtained. And keep in mind that previously mentioned admonishment of the stiff arm, to wit, if the dog jumps up on his guide, use the stiff arm to hold him down.

SECOND LESSON

RIGHT, LEFT AND ABOUT TURN

Other than the command HEEL, which is used throughout, there is no definite command for the execution of this lesson. The dog must be given every possible assistance, consequently the command HEEL should be issued at every turn, whether right, left or turn about. If, for instance, while walking straight ahead, you make a sudden turn in a different direction without issuing the command, the dog would naturally continue straight ahead. He would then be brought up short with a jerk at his neck and this, from previous experience, would confuse him because it spelled punishment.

Therefore the command HEEL is given to attract his attention, to make him look up at his guide and get the cue for the new direction. Later on when he is perfectly trained and the full meaning of these commands has penetrated his brain, he will of course obey the slightest sign without command. But until that stage has been reached, commands and signs must be lavishly employed.

THE COMMAND—HEEL*The Sign—None*

Right and left turns are half turns to the right or to the left, executed quickly and without stopping or looking back at the dog. About turn is understood to be a full turn in the opposite direction, or a right-about-face. It is executed to the right because it is easier to teach and also to practise.

RIGHT TURN: Hold the leash in the right hand, the hand dropped at the right side, the leash short enough to keep the dog close to the left side, and the left hand free at the left side.

Command **HEEL** and start straight ahead, walking briskly and keeping the dog close to the left side. Repeat the order at intervals as you proceed. Now turn sharp right, at the same time repeating the command and patting the dog's head with the free left hand. The leash will be crossed in front of the guide and, as the turn is made, the guide will be walking against it in such a way as to pull the dog around. Should he attempt to pull away when the turn is made, quickly grasp the leash with the left hand and bring him around with a slight jerk. Upon completion of the turn, release the leash with the left hand which once more becomes free, and walk straight ahead as before.

LEFT TURN: Start out with the same procedure as followed for the *right turn* with this exception: When turning to the left, command HEEL and at that very moment step out with the right foot, bringing the right knee across the left knee far enough to bump against the dog which should be close to the left side. This will indicate to him that he must turn left with you, and it will prevent the guide falling over the dog.

Exactly as in the case of the *right turn*, if the dog does not respond quickly, grasp the leash with the free left hand and pull him around. Then, once the turn has been made, continue on the straightaway for a little distance before making another turn as described in the *right turn* exercise. It is true that this turn is slightly more difficult to execute and it may seem awkward at first but practise in the end will make it perfect.

ABOUT TURN:-Giving the command HEEL, start out on the straightaway as described **in** the *right turn* exercise. ABOUT TURN is executed to the right, but instead of making a half turn to the right, make a quick right-about-face. Hold the leash in the right hand, across the front of the guide exactly as described **in** the *right turn* exercise; and if the dog does not follow around instantly, use the left hand to assist him. But be sure to make this turn a sharp right-about-face! In other words, avoid going around in a circle by using several steps.

Repeat these exercises several times at first, then mix

them until the dog has become sufficiently familiar with them to execute them without the use of the left hand on the leash. Give the command and pat the dog's head frequently to inspire confidence and to give encouragement. And do not stop while petting or praising, lest the dog consider this a sign to jump up on the guide and frisk about him, thus ruining the original idea of holding his position close to the guide's side.

While engaged in this exercise, some dogs acquire the habit of pulling over to the right side, especially when making right turns. Needless to say, such a fault must be remedied in the very beginning. A light slap on the muzzle with the right hand "will teach him what to expect from the right hand, also that "left is right." And just as soon as he falls into the correct position at the left side, praise him.

Again let me emphasize the importance of keeping the dog close to the left side and of executing these turns short and fast. To make them slowly is to necessitate several steps, resulting in a circle, in which case the dog is quite liable to get out of reach and control. This has a bad effect on the lesson, HEELING OFF THE LEASH, for he will respond in sloppy fashion rather than in a clean-cut manner. After regular, twice-daily practise, the dog will learn the correct turns in HEELING in a very short time.

THIRD LESSON

SIT

THE COMMAND—SIT

The Sign—None

The moment the guide stops, the dog should sit close to his left side.

Hold the leash tightly in both hands, with the right hand at the side, and with a loose grip in the left hand at the left side. But do not slip the hand through the loop at the leash end.

Walk forward and stop suddenly, at the same time giving in a sharp voice the command SIT. Drop the leash from the left hand. Still holding the leash in a tight grip raise the right hand, and at that moment press the lower part of the dog's back to the ground with the left hand while repeating the command SIT.

The guide should then assume a standing position, once more with the command SIT. Throughout this procedure, avoid changing the position of your feet. The dog should still be at your left side.

What is the dog's reaction? He will attempt to get up

on his feet, to jump to one side, possibly to lie down or sit sidewise.

CORRECTION:-This exercise offers little difficulty when executed correctly, though failure may trace to various laxities on the part of the guide. Very likely the guide loosened his hold on the leash with his right hand and did not hold the dog up on his front feet as he pressed him into the sitting position, or possibly he changed the position of his feet and therefore found himself facing the dog. Too, he may have confused the dog with too many commands.

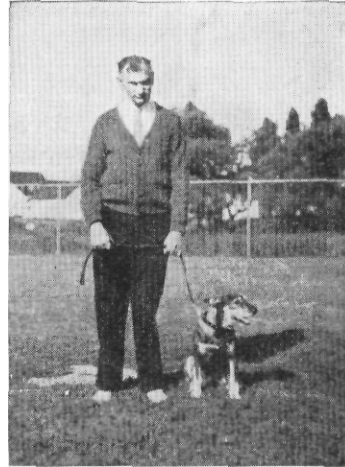
The command ought not to be used more than three times: first, at the instant of stopping; second, while the dog is being pushed into a sitting position; and third, when the dog has assumed the desired sitting position. Of importance is it for the guide to watch the action of his hands so as to be sure he holds them exactly as described.

The dog is now in a sitting position at the left side of the guide, and so long as the latter remains quiet, the dog will not move. Give him now a few words of praise and a pat with the left hand, while you still hold the same position with ease.

Should the dog try to sit sidewise, removed from his guide, place your left hand against his left side when pressing him into the sitting position and in that way nudge him closer to you. Repeat this exercise several times while in standing position. Then walk again and suddenly stop



Right hand with unchanged grip on the leash goes, up; left hand brings dog down into the sitting position. Note the guide's feet are unchanged.



After bringing the dog into the sitting position, the guide straightens up with the position of his feet unchanged.



INCORRECT
The dog is sitting sidewise.



INCORRECT
The dog is sitting too faraway.

with the command SIT. By now, the dog will probably assume the correct sitting position without further influence and aided only by the single command.

When the dog executes this lesson correctly—and of course it must be repeated over and over again—don't forget those words of praise. If for a few times he responds readily and then fails, be patient and help him again by pulling him up with the right hand, and pushing him down with the left. It requires several days and repetitious practise before a dog becomes a competent "sitter."

Not infrequently do we hear people, who are unversed in the real technique of training, condemn it unreservedly: they claim that it possesses marked disadvantages in the ring at bench shows because the trained dog sits when his guide stops. Such a statement is of course false because a trained dog is taught not alone to sit at the proper time but to remain in any position he is ordered to assume, whether at a show, whether posing for his picture, whether atop a jumping board or anywhere else. It is wise not to regard seriously the criticism of those without actual experience in dog training.

Practise this lesson in various places—in heavy traffic, under bridges, and with a stop so sudden that the dog has no chance to pay attention to what goes on about him. The lesson is important and its correct execution will prove of untold value when we come to HEELING FREE or HEELING OFF THE LEASH.

The time allotted for practise of this exercise should be fifteen minutes daily or, better still, ten minutes morning and evening. And remember, choose several different spots for practise, also change the sequence of the commands lest execution tend to become mechanical.

FOURTH LESSON

LYING DOWN

THE COMMAND—DOWN

The Sign—Right hand raised above dog's head.

At the command DOWN, the dog should drop to the ground close to the guide's left side, and remain there until given the order to move.

This lesson will evoke more varied reactions than any of the other exercises and, according to temperament, some dogs will respond more quickly to it than others. Care must be taken lest timid or nervous dogs be frightened by too much force. When the lesson is practised on the leash, be sure that the leash is not dropped.

Holding the leash in the left hand, and with the right hand free, walk along with the dog. Stop, issue the command DOWN, and at the same time raise the right hand over the dog's head. Pull him to the ground with the left hand as close as possible to the collar, and hold him so he cannot move. When bringing him down to the ground the left hand should pull on the leash, right up at the collar, from the side nearest to the guide, thus insuring



Right hand over the dog's head;
left hand near the collar; left
arm quite stiff.



Command: "DOWN!" Guide
bends down and brings dog-
down close to left side.



Guide straightens up, having
right hand ready for the sign and
command if the dog moves.

a firmer grip. Keep the right hand raised over the dog's head and avoid touching him with either hand.

In keeping the dog on the ground it will be found of assistance to step on the leash with the left foot, close to the collar. Hold it there. Every move the dog makes should be interrupted by the command DOWN and by the upraised hand. The dog should maintain this position until another command is issued.

Throughout this procedure the guide must not change the position of his feet; he should in fact remain just where he stops, close beside the dog, without turning sidewise and without stepping in front of the dog. Then, from the stooping position, the guide should straighten up and, with the leash held in his left hand, be ready to start out again on the walk.

Bringing the dog to the DOWN position should be a quick performance. If it is executed too slowly, the peppy dog especially, left alone as his guide walks away, will be very likely to rise and follow. If, on the other hand, he is brought down in quick, business-like manner, he is more apt to remain in that position for a long time. At any rate, constant repetition is required to perfect a dog in this lesson.

Commands should not be shouted, neither should they be given in too low a voice. It will not be necessary for the guide to stoop over and pull the dog to the ground

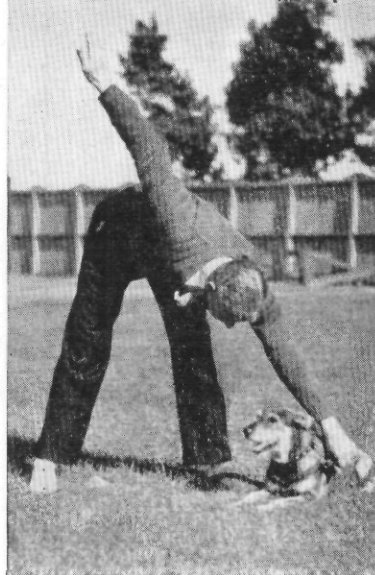
once he has really mastered the exercise. He will then react to the command and the lifted hand.

The DOWN is the only exercise unaccompanied by hand petting. This is because petting will tempt the dog



INCORRECT

Touching the dog, not giving the sign, moving the feet, thus changing the guide's position.



INCORRECT

Left hand at the wrong side. Right hand invisible to the dog. Guide changed the position of his feet.

to get up on his feet instead of remaining on the ground. A little praise is advisable but remember to keep your hands off the dog when he takes the lying down position. Practise this lesson daily, for about two weeks, with the same care and persistence recommended for preced-

ing lessons, because HEEL, SIT and DOWN are the foundation for the entire future training in obedience. Any faulty performances in lessons to follow will trace directly to careless or superficial handling of the foregoing obedience exercises. If you would have a well trained dog, you must build upon a firm foundation, wherefore continual practise of this and of the foregoing lessons is necessary even though such practise may seem to grow tiresome.

Daily practise of all of these lessons, for about four weeks will bring truly amazing results. Do not, however, extend the exercise time beyond this period because over-work will have a deleterious influence upon the pupil's spirit. The work can be made more interesting perhaps by frequent change of territory, by practicing in the presence of other dogs. But do not neglect to use the commands whenever and wherever possible.

Above all, endeavor to prevent the dog from becoming too mechanical in action by occasionally changing the general routine. That is, refrain from following the SIT exercise invariably with the DOWN exercise. And do not forget that both SIT and DOWN should be practised with the dog on one's left, never in front, this being of particular importance in case the dog under training is to enter bench show competition.

FIFTH LESSON

STAYING IN SIT AND DOWN POSITION

The object of this lesson is to teach the dog, at the command SIT-STAY or DOWN-STAY, to remain in position until another command is given even though the guide should disappear entirely from sight.

THE COMMAND—SIT-STAY OR DOWN-STAY

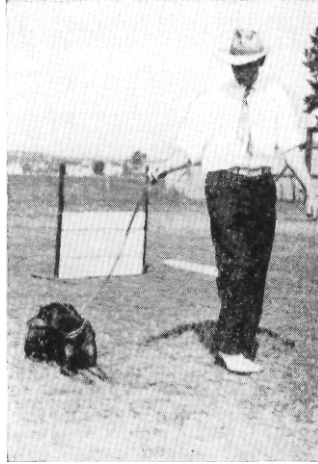
The Sign—For DOWN—Right hand over
dog's head

For SIT—no sign

For STAY—Left hand open,
palm facing dog

When the dog is in the DOWN position, the guide should hold the leash in his left hand at the loop end, then issue the command STAY, step in front of the dog, facing him. Repeat the command STAY, and walk around the dog in a circle, from left to right, allowing the leash to hang loose from the hand. The right hand must be free, ready to give the sign of the raised hand accompanied by the command DOWN in the event that the dog should attempt to change his position.

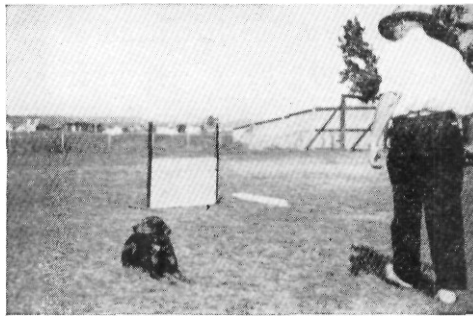
After circling the dog several times, change the leash to the right hand and reverse the direction, circling from left to right. Should it become necessary to give the sign DOWN, change the leash back to the left hand . . . the



DOWN-STAY-guide walking around the dog in a circle.



Guide stepping over the dog.



Off leash; circle enlarged.

right hand, remember, is the "sign hand" hence should be free when giving the sign.

Continue circling around the dog first in one direction, then the other, repeating the command STAY from time to time. Keep narrowing the circle, step over the dog from left to right and vice versa, finishing in front of the dog and facing him as at the start. Throughout this procedure the leash is held over the dog to prevent entanglement.

If the dog remains quiet on the ground, drop the leash and repeat these exercises, issuing the command STAY at intervals as before. If still he remains quiet gradually widen the circles. Before long the dog, realizing he is not going to be left alone, will remain in position for some time. With this much accomplished, let us now take up the next step.

Stand in front of the dog facing him, the leash dropped to the ground. Give both command and sign STAY. Walk backwards a few steps, keeping your eyes on the dog and *concentrating* on the command. As the guide backs off, his right arm should be raised to full height because at long range the dog can see this action much better. By consulting the illustration on page 82 you can see that a low sign at a distance would be obscured by the guide's body. Should it happen that the dog refuses to hold his position, step slowly toward him, giving a sharp command DOWN, the right arm still raised high in the

air. Repeat this exercise again and again, using commands and signs freely.

If it seems impossible to teach the dog to keep his po-



CORRECT

The right arm raised high in the air.



INCORRECT

Raised only to body level, the right arm cannot easily be seen by the dog.

sition under commands and signs, look to yourself as to the cause of the difficulty. It may be due to the fact that you have been just a little careless in walking around, or over, the dog: maybe you have inadvertently stepped on his leg or his tail. Reason enough, this, for the dog to

become nervous and fearful so that as you approach he jumps up. Therefore be extremely careful not to step too close to the dog in the performance of this lesson.

Possibly the dog refuses to obey long distance commands and persists in getting up and following. In this case the guide should wait until the dog is close to him, then pick up the leash, take him back to the starting point and bring him down again, with a jerk at his collar. Issue the command DOWN-STAY and walk backward, still facing him.

Do not strike the dog or punish him in any manner for disobedience because, in this instance, he would understand he was being punished for coming to his guide. Naturally, this would interfere markedly with the "Come when called" sign to be taught later. The sole remedy, then, is patience and constant practise on the part of the guide.

There is another method applicable for conquering an obstinate dog. Tie him to a post or a tree, give the command DOWN-STAY, then walk away and leave him for a few moments. Return and release him, and try him out once again. As a result of this procedure, the dog will probably get up and jump on his guide because he is glad to see him and because he anticipates his freedom. This ought not to be permitted. The dog must be "downed" each time he attempts it, and too, in a tone of voice that means business.

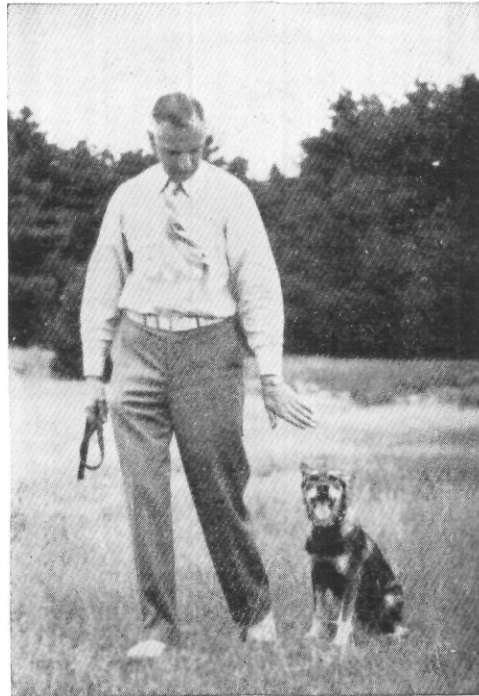
Still another method is concerned with the use of a long leash of about ten yards, tied to a tree, a fence or post. At a distance of, say, three yards, bring the dog to the down position. Remove the usual short leash, replacing it with the long one as inconspicuously as possible. Thinking of course he has gained his freedom, the dog will follow the guide as he backs away until he is brought up short at the end of the leash. The instant he reaches the end, give the command DOWN. Then return him to the starting point—three feet from the tree—and repeat. Remember to issue the command and the sign STAY when leaving him. If there happens to be no hitching post available at the moment, the guide may call upon someone to hold the end of the leash, and as the dog starts to move away he can give a jerk when he hears the guide command DOWN. Each time the dog moves from position he must be taken back, no matter how long or how short the distance may be, no matter how many times it must be repeated.

Frequently the guide makes the mistake of turning his back to the dog, or of walking away too quickly. He must back away so he can watch the dog. Later on, when he has learned to obey these commands, he can be left without watching.

About one minute is the required time, at the beginning of this lesson, for the dog to remain in the DOWN position without moving, but after several days of prac-

tise the time may be increased to five minutes. When he has stayed down for the required length of time, walk to him, pick up the leash and go through some of the exercises he has already learned.

The second part of this lesson, executed with the command SIT-STAY, is concerned with the identical procedure of the DOWN-STAY exercise, except that the dog is in a sitting instead of a lying down position. By this



SIT-STAY

The left hand gives the sign Stay.

I mean holding the leash and walking around the dog, then dropping the leash, backing away, etc., just as in the DOWN-STAY.

Now, with this exercise goes the almost invisible sign, LEFT HAND TOWARD THE DOG, and care must be used to avoid confusing the dog with lifted hand or right arm as that signifies DOWN to him. The command STAY is the same as in the first part of the lesson, and the time limit for the exercise is three minutes. Do not neglect to give the command STAY plus the sign every time you leave the dog.

When this much has been thoroughly learned, proceed to the next step. Give the command SIT-STAY and walk directly away from the dog instead of walking backward facing him. Do not look back until you have covered some distance, say about ten feet, then turn and watch him closely. Never walk away without issuing the command and making the sign STAY as illustrated on page 85.

It is highly important at this point not to call the dog to the guide. Rather, go to him and pick up the leash. For he has not yet been taught to COME WHEN CALLED, a lesson to be taken up later.

Practise of the foregoing lesson should take some twenty minutes each day, ten in the morning, ten in the afternoon or evening. It will be found beneficial to practise the SIT-STAY when entering and leaving an auto-

mobile or, in fact, any sort of vehicle, especially on busy thoroughfares. Before getting in the car, command STAY; the dog will then sit beside the guide until the door has been opened and he is permitted to enter, but he must not enter without the proper command. By so doing he will remain close to the car, and all chance of being struck by a passing car or other vehicular traffic will be eliminated.

Before leaving the car, command STAY, when the dog will remain safely in it until the guide has alighted and has issued the command HEEL, this to prevent him from rushing out into the street before the guide has an opportunity to get him under control. A sensible safety measure also is to let the dog enter and leave vehicles on the side away from traffic so he will have no slightest chance to run in front of passing cars. The unfortunate experience of the late Senator Shall, of Minnesota, victim of just such an accident with his Seeing Eye dog, is a case in point which proves the wisdom of this procedure. A number of my own pupils too have attested to the benefits derived from it.

Execution of the STAY lesson is the first time the dog has been allowed to work without the leash. So many people fear that the dog may run away if unleashed and given a little liberty. Just such thinking may bring this about through the fact that the dog, sensing the uncertainty of his guide, succumbs to the very natural reaction

of running toward or from him. If however the guide will concentrate on the command STAY and meantime keep his eye on the dog, he will at once nullify any uncertainty and, in the bargain, find the dog obedient to surprising degree.

SIXTH LESSON

FINISH

THE COMMAND—HEEL

The Sign—With his left hand the guide slaps the side of his left leg.

Recognizing this sign, the dog approaches his guide, sits in front of him; and at the command and sign HEEL, the dog swings around to the guide's left side and finishes in the original sitting position.

One of the snappiest of all lessons, this invariably attracts the attention of the spectator. A dog which thoroughly understands the meaning of the word HEEL should have no difficulty with this exercise because, no matter where he happens to be, the moment he hears the command HEEL, he will eagerly run to his guide and sit at his side.

The dog is in sitting position in front of the guide. Now, from this spot the command HEEL may confuse him for the simple reason that he has not yet learned how to get to the guide's left side, in the sitting position. Some dogs will walk around the guide as if looking for the proper landing place. Thus the purpose of this lesson is

to teach the dog how to accomplish the turn gracefully by swinging himself into position instead of by walking clear around the guide.

Begin with the dog leashed and sitting at the guide's left side. Issuing the command STAY, step about two feet in front of the dog, facing him. Change the leash to the right hand, holding it about two feet from the collar or other distance rendered convenient according to the dog's particular size. Giving both command and sign HEEL, grasp the leash with the left hand close up to the right hand. Slide the left hand along the leash quickly toward the dog. Repeat the command HEEL and swing the dog around to the left in a sharp sort of circle bringing him to the left side with the command SIT. The guide should then straighten up and stand erect. Thus both guide and dog are in correct position. Throughout this procedure the guide must not move his feet or change his position in any way.

CAUTION—This exercise ought not to be executed too slowly. Do not catch hold of the leash with the left hand too near the collar. Remember to start close to the right hand and slide the left hand along the leash toward the collar. Hold the leash in the right hand in such a manner that hand and collar are not more than two feet apart, for this would tend to bring the dog too far away from **the** guide facing him. It would then be necessary for the guide to step out of position in order to adjust himself to



1



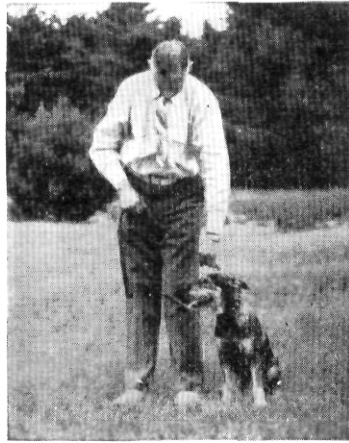
2



3

4

5



FINISH

1. At the command Reel, the left hand gives the sign. 2. Starting close up to the right hand, the left hand slides down toward the collar. 3. Under Heel, the left hand then brings the dog around in a short circle to—4. the guide's left side. The guide commands Sit. 6. The guide straightens up as the dog assumes the correct position.

the dog, resulting in an awkward, clumsy execution of the exercise.

This lesson, however, should entail no special difficulties if careful attention is paid to the rules, and full consideration given to the above explanation under caution.

SEVENTH LESSON

COME WHEN CALLED

THE COMMAND—COME (plus the dog's name)

The Sign—Slapping knee with both hands.

The dog is lying down some little distance away, and at the command COME he approaches his guide at a fast pace and stops in front of him in sitting position. Then commanded HEEL, he swings around and sits at the left side of his guide.

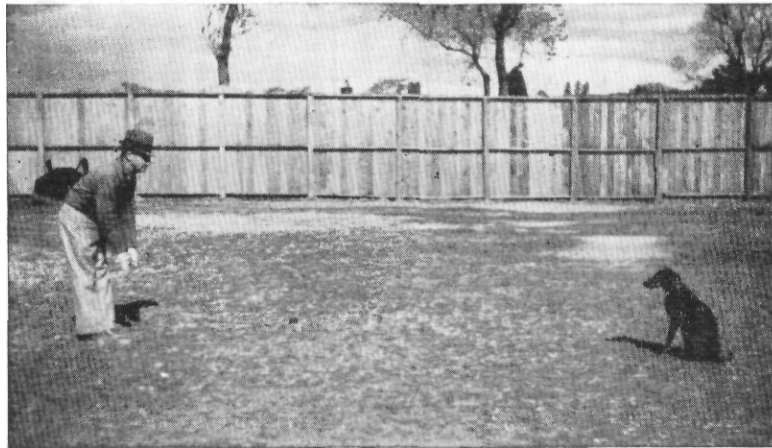
In the preceding lesson the dog has learned to DOWN. He is now unleashed but the guide is not certain he is under full control. If perchance a safely enclosed area is not available, it will be wise to practise this lesson with a leash of about ten yards in length. After tying the leash to a post, give the command STAY and walk away from the dog to a distance of, say, eight yards thus allowing a play of about two yards. Before this exercise is begun, carefully measure off the eight-yard distance in order that the space between dog and guide shall not exceed the length of the leash. This is so the dog will not be brought up with a sharp jerk before he reaches the guide. If he were thus pulled up, short, he would very naturally think

he was being punished for coming toward his guide and he might therefore be reluctant to repeat or to come when called. Upon arriving at the eight-yard distance, the guide should remain standing for a little while before calling the the dog, because many times a dog has a tendency to follow immediately after his guide the instant the latter turns toward him.

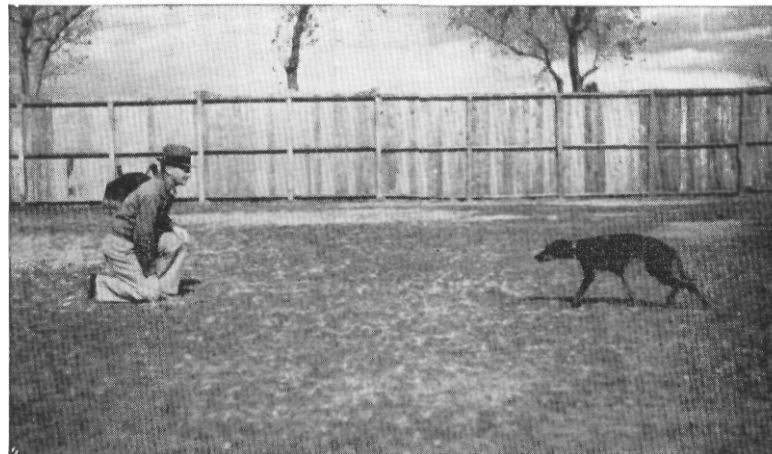
Allow the dog to remain in the DOWN position for a few moments, then, before commanding COME accompanied by his name. As soon as he makes the slightest attempt to respond, he must be praised and encouraged. While calling, the only move the guide should make is to stoop over and slap his knees, or to kneel down to coax the dog forward. When the dog reaches the guide, the latter should issue the command SIT, with forefinger of the right hand raised and pointed upward in front of him. Follow this with the command HEEL, and the exercise is finished.

Throughout this entire lesson, considerable encouragement is necessary in order to overcome any shyness or fear which the dog may exhibit. Admittedly will execution of this lesson try the patience of the guide but on no account must he resort to the slightest form of punishment, no matter how stubborn the dog appears to be.

Should the dog attempt to run away or to go in another direction, don't above all run after him, shouting epithets! Such an act will but serve to drive the dog farther off and



Command: "**COME!**" Sign: Slapping the knees **with** both hands.



Going down on one knee will induce the dog to come at once.

make the desired execution of this command more difficult. It will destroy the dog's confidence in his guide; and it will teach him to expect punishment when finally he does obey, and this of course must not be.

When the dog responds correctly attached to the leash, then set him free and go over the same exercise once more. Command him to lie down and STAY, then walk away. Call him, encouraging him toward you all the time.

One of the most impressive exercises in the whole course, it is highly important to practise it daily and at every opportunity. I will list below the difficulties most often encountered and most commonly observed during the execution of this lesson:

1. The dog will not come when called.
2. The dog goes off in another direction instead of coming directly to the guide.
3. The dog approaches too slowly.
4. The dog runs in the opposite direction.
5. The dog will not hold the STAY position, but starts to approach the guide before he is summoned.
6. When the dog reaches the guide, he does not SIT in front of him.

CORRECTIONS—1. *Suppose the dog does not come when called.* As a rule this results from rough treatment which has created fear, and from lack of encouragement during previous lessons. Some dogs that are lazy will not

respond in peppy manner. To be exact, the manner in which the dog responds in this lesson will constitute evidence of just how hard, how conscientiously the guide has done his part. If the guide himself is quick in execution, the dog will likewise be quick: if he is slow, so will the dog be slow. Consequently when calling a dog that is slow to respond, drop to one knee and call the dog in a friendly tone of voice, praising and coaxing him along as he advances.

Another effective measure is to run backwards, frequently giving the command COME and using the dog's name. Usually the dog will follow his guide when he finds he is running away from him. Don't have any fear that the dog will run away and get lost. Continual practise of this phase of the exercise will do much for the stubborn animal.

2. *Suppose the dog runs sidewise instead of coming directly to the guide.* In this event, consider the training field. Perhaps too many intensely interesting spots attract the dog; perhaps the command is issued too slowly or in a definitely colorless tone of voice. At any rate, a change of training field sometimes remedies this fault.

3. *Suppose the dog approaches too slowly.* As in points 1 and 2, the dog must be pepped up. Give commands in a snappy voice, accompanied by the words, "hurry up" and the usual encouragement, stepping backwards just a little as he approaches you.

4. *Suppose the dog runs in the opposite direction.* This is the best manner in which the dog can give evidence of a dislike of obedience. It may spring from lack of confidence in the guide: it may be occasioned by fear or by stubbornness. Possibly someone who has befriended **the dog** happens to be standing nearby, and naturally the dog prefers to run to him for attention. To overcome such a contingency, command with greater persuasiveness or put the dog back on the long leash. Holding the loop-end in the hand, command COME and as the dog breaks away, the sharp jerk will remind him of the direction he must take; and if still he refuses to approach the guide, he should be pulled forward as the guide walks backward at a fast pace and calls COME at frequent intervals.

Watch the dog's movements carefully. If for instance he starts off to *one* side or the other, change to the opposite direction thus compelling the dog to take the direction the guide has chosen rather than the one he, the dog, has selected on his own account. In other words, do not allow the dog to take the lead.

Should the dog follow in front as the guide steps backward, stop suddenly and give both command and sign SIT. Then let the dog remain sitting in front of the guide for just a few seconds before commanding HEEL, inasmuch as the tendency is for the dog to swing into position at the guide's left side immediately upon arriving before him, without waiting for the command. The cor-

correct execution of this command will be of marked assistance when beginning with the retrieving lessons later on. Practise frequently this part of the exercise with the long leash until the dog performs his work creditably.

Too, the chainette can be used but inasmuch as it is a form of punishment, it had best be used sparingly. Even so, when the guide knows that his dog is behaving badly, he may throw the chainette immediately after issuing the command COME, taking care to encourage the dog to come. But never wait to throw the chain while the dog approaches: this in the dog's mind would mean punishment for coming when called, and it would inspire him to turn away to seek protection elsewhere.

5. *Suppose the dog will not hold the STAY position for a sufficient length of time.* Do not expect that, once the dog performs this exercise correctly, he will do so invariably. Don't make the mistake, at first, of expecting him to remain in the sitting position for the required three minutes for dogs of lively temperament especially find it difficult to remain quiet so long.

When starting practise of this exercise, the command COME should be issued when the dog has been lying down for only a moment. If he rises before the command is given, bring him down with a short jerk at the collar, and the sharp command DOWN-STAY. Gradually extend the time from a few seconds to half a minute, again gradually to the full five-minute limit. The time for the

SIT-STAY position, too, should be increased in like manner. And when the guide becomes certain that the dog will remain in position for the required length of time, then he may disappear without fear of the dog moving the moment he is lost to view.

6. *Suppose that when the dog reaches his guide he does not SIT before him.* When they hear the command COME or HEEL, many dogs are trained to come into position at the guide's left side expecting a new command. To change this, call the dog from a sitting or down position with the command COME. Slap the knees with both hands and, when a few feet away, move one or two steps forward toward the dog and give command and sign SIT. If the dog has been taught to obey the command SIT in the right manner, that is, as described in the beginning of this lesson, he will SIT at once. He must be praised, but not petted, to prevent him from jumping on his guide. Follow with the command HEEL which should bring the dog around to the left side.

Quite often the dog will develop the bad habit of jumping on his guide after the command HEEL is issued. The only solution, in this case, is to return to the leash and, as described in the Sixth Lesson, bring him from the front to the left side several times while leashed, without giving any praise except upon completion of the exercise, i.e., after the dog sits close to the left side without trying to jump which of course is stopped by the shortly held leash.

EIGHTH LESSON

HEELING FREE

THE COMMAND—HEEL

The Sign—With his left hand the guide slaps his left leg.

HEELING FREE is identical with the First Lesson save that the exercise is performed without the leash. At the command HEEL the dog follows closely at the guide's left knee.

The execution and correction of this lesson, being so closely related, can be explained in one chapter. For the dog that has been correctly trained by instructions previously given, HEELING FREE becomes an easy and quickly acquired lesson. All through the course of preceding lessons I have claimed that dogs may have lacked confidence in their guides. Now I turn the tables and blame the guide for those faults he fears; faults which in reality do not exist. This I will prove satisfactorily in the forthcoming explanation.

In several of the lessons already learned, the dog has been free of the leash. He has learned to come when called, he stays for a specified time, all without benefit of

the leash; but now when we wish to walk him uncontrolled by the leash, the guide fears to set him free thinking he may run away. Why? Clearly, from lack of self confidence. The guide doesn't trust his dog, though he expects the dog to trust him! What can we do about it?

For a moment let us refer to the explanation of CONCENTRATION. Read it once more carefully for here lies the only solution to the problem, the only hope of attaining success in this lesson. If the guide is forever obsessed with the idea that once the dog is loose he will run away, then it may be advisable to let him run for of a certainty *he 'will do it*. But if, on the contrary, the guide is dominated by the conviction that the dog has learned obedience, that out of love and confidence he will follow wherever the master chooses to go, then the dog will just as surely *stick close to the guide* whatever may come. This psychology the guide must use: he must start off absolutely convinced that his dog will stick close at his left side. Only this, and the fear of losing the dog will never materialize!

Now, at the usual speed, and with the dog on leash, go through a few exercises like HEEL, SIT, DOWN, STAY. We are walking straight forward, talking to the dog and every once in a while patting his head. Without stopping we detach the leash as we go and, under continued signalling by clapping our left leg and issuing the command HEEL, we keep right on going.

By virtue of lessons already learned, the dog by this time should follow so closely that we can feel whether or not he is at our side. Should the dog hang back and not follow closely, walk a trifle faster, even begin running a little, always encouraging with that friendly spoken HEEL, or with words of praise "That's good!" and with petting. But do not stop, otherwise the dog will go immediately into the trained sitting position. Should he walk too rapidly, or get too far out in front, then slow down and raise the right arm across your body to left-elbow level, the palm of the hand turned inward toward the dog's face. This is the sign for him to slow down.

We are still walking forward. Now comes the right turn which is the hardest. As mentioned a little while ago, never make a move without telling the dog, in the form of a command or a signal such as HEEL, accompanied by petting. When making a turn to the right, pet his head with your left hand, keeping him on your left side and bringing him around to the right in the turn. Continue walking and petting him until the turn is completed and he is going straight ahead. After a few paces, stop. The dog sits. Petting under the rather long-drawn-out command H E E L, again we go straight ahead.

Now follows the left turn. Once more say HEEL as we make a left turn toward the dog. He will follow this better because he is on the guide's left side just as during the right turn. In the event that he pulls forward or that

he does not make the turn, he will naturally bump into the guide's right knee, and this causes him to remain at the left side close up to the guide. Again pet him if he follows closely. Adjust your pace to the dog, by which I mean, go faster if he lags, slower if he proceeds too rapidly.

Once more let me emphasize that many guides make the unfortunate mistake of adjusting themselves to the direction in which the dog wants to go, wherefore instead of the dog following the guide, the dog is in reality leading him. Look back a moment to CORRECTION EXERCISE 4 in the Seventh Lesson; in other words, never adjust yourself to the dog's direction, but go in the opposite direction with increasing speed and the dog will follow at once.

When the right and left turns are properly executed, then comes the full or ABOUT TURN. After the command HEEL, the full turn follows with the signal or sign, in this case the slap on the guide's left leg, the turn being executed as previously described.

As I have remarked before, the faults committed in connection with this lesson are mostly those of the guide, because so often he thinks the dog is not following. CONCENTRATION is the only solution. To be avoided also is too much slow walking, too much looking back to see whether the dog follows: this confuses the animal unnecessarily. If the initial lessons are correctly

carried out, HEELING FREE will occasion no difficulty.

Suppose, for the sake of argument, the dog does not follow in the manner desired! We have only to ask ourselves the reason. Self examination will surely supply the answer. If it should prove to be lack of confidence on the part of the dog, then petting and kindness are needed: if it be lack of confidence on the part of the guide, the cultivation of self confidence must be practised.

It is not at all advisable to feed the dog during any part of this lesson. Training through the stomach is never a reliable method so do not start it. True, many an amateur has tried it only to come to the conclusion that it is wrong. For trick dogs it may work, but in obedience training it will surely end in failure just because the dog's

interest, being held by the bribe, cannot be held by the command HEEL. Also, feeding is not permitted in field trials, consequently the dog trained first by feeding will suffer disappointment when he does not receive his expected reward.

It helps a great deal when a dog is a naturally peppy retriever. Here we can effectually excite his interest and joy in his work by showing him the dumbbell in conjunction with the command HEEL. We can attract his attention and hold it all the time, but the dog will consider

the dumbbell as reward for good work when he is afterward granted the fun of playing with it by retrieving.

Certainly all exercises must be connected in some form with the dumbbell. In fact I have enjoyed the greatest amount of success with dogs trained either personally or under my direction, when the SIT, DOWN, STAY, etc., lessons are practised in such a manner.

The time limit of twenty minutes is not to be extended until the guide is certain the dog is dependable, and that all exercises are understood by the dog with only one command, and without hesitation or undue delay.

Obviously all orders, all commands must be used in the house, out of doors, whenever and wherever opportunity offers, this to insure against making a machine of the dog. Likewise response to all commands must be given in various types of places and not restricted to a certain field or yard. Such an unfortunate tendency is frequently observed at dog shows where some competitors prove excellent performers in the ring but, in truth, nowhere else.

NINTH LESSON

STOPPING IN HIS TRACKS WHEN SIGNALLED

THE COMMAND—DOWN

The Sign—The guide's right arm raised full height over his head.

Following the DOWN-STAY command, the dog is called by the guide who is about ten feet away. When the dog is, say, five feet distant, the guide suddenly gives the command DOWN and at the same time raises his right arm. The dog drops immediately into the DOWN position and remains there until further commands are issued.

For a very definite reason I have delayed this lesson until now. True, we might have studied it in connection with the COME WHEN CALLED lesson except for the fact that we are now taking up exercises carried out without benefit of the leash. Consequently at this stage we can begin the STOPPING IN HIS TRACKS WHEN SIGNALLED at a time when the dog has become more proficient in obedience. The exercise will thus prove easier for both dog and guide.

Moreover, were we at this point, to practise the exer-

cise under discussion in conjunction with COME WHEN CALLED, we would most certainly breed confusion in the mind of the dog when, for example, he attempted to come and then was suddenly stopped. But if the dog is thoroughly grounded in the DOWN, that is, if he understands that he must assume this position when the guide signals by lifting his right hand as the command is issued, then the entire exercise will present no difficulty at all. Considerable disadvantage will result of course if the guide has been careless, still we can correct this quite easily.

The fault most frequently observed is that the dog, as he approaches, does not DOWN at once. In that case the guide must take at least one step toward him at the same time the signal and command are given. Allowing the dog to come too near, before the command is issued, constitutes another fault: the dog will then lie down as soon as he arrives in front of the guide. It is easily seen that rather than have the intervening distance too short, the guide had better be farther away, so that he may take a few steps toward the approaching dog and still have a little distance between the two remaining.

The long leash, held by someone who can assist the guide, will be found helpful in this lesson, along the same lines as in COME WHEN CALLED. The long leash fastened to his collar, the dog lies down, while the helper with the end of the leash in his hand, stands behind him.



At the sign of the correctly raised right arm, the dog goes into DOWN at once.



The dog pays no attention to the incorrect sign of the half raised arm.

A mark has been made previously to show exactly where the dog should stop.

Now guide and helper watch each other closely. The guide gives command and sign COME, (both hands toward the knee) and the instant the dog reaches the designated mark, he gives command and sign (raised right arm) DOWN. The helper who, it will be remembered, holds the leash-end in his hand gives the dog a sharp jerk and the dog, without knowing the source of the jerk, will DOWN at once. If he turns around in an attempt to discover where the jerk came from, and if he is not in the proper DOWN position, then the helper issues the same command DOWN plus the sign of the raised right arm. Practically every dog will realize at once that he is between a cross-fire of men with arms raised and, being on the leash, he will lie down.

To a few over-sensitive people, this exercise may appear a trifle drastic but let me assure them that it is not, when handled in the right way. The distance, though, should not be too long while the dog is in training: later, when he understands and obeys the command and the sign, without the leash, it may be extended.

Another method, requiring more time and patience, is to have the dog STT-STAY while the guide is about four feet in front of him. Let the dog sit for a few seconds, then raise the right arm and follow with the command DOWN. Emphasize this with a step toward the dog, arm still raised

until he lies down. This will have the desired effect but it must be repeated several times, with the distance between guide and dog gradually extended.

Start again with the short distance. Call the dog, then give the command DOWN. Extend the distance gradually, with this difference, that DOWN is commanded while the dog is approaching the guide; whereas before, the command was issued while the dog was resting or in sitting position.

It will be found helpful to familiarize the dog with the effect of the chainette. Try shaking it with the right hand in its raised position as the command is given. But remember never to throw it as the dog approaches for this would have a deleterious effect. On this point, refer again to the lesson COME WHEN CALLED.

Various benefits could be mentioned by way of illustrating the value of this exercise. For example, suppose the dog is out of control, the guide on one side of the street, the dog on the other. Clearly the dog is endangered by passing autos if and when he starts to cross the street. But the STOP signal, given him while cars are passing, will serve to protect him. It has in fact saved the life of many a dog! Another practical application of the STOP sign concerns the dog that may prove a little unmanageable or excited perhaps after, we will say, he has been playing with other dogs. The STOP sign brings him under control quickly, thus giving the guide

an opportunity to approach him and attach the leash.

Recently I had in training a dog that was entirely out of control. Because he had been trained in Europe for attacking, which is a part of police work, the dog presented a real problem for an owner who did not know how to handle him. This dog was always kept in my room but in some unexplainable way he got out, and rushed from the house to within a few yards of a passing farmer. Fortunately I happened to be on the opposite side of the street when I saw him speeding to the attack. At my cry DOWN, right hand raised, the dog dropped instantly, disappointed I suppose at losing a chance to test his teeth. Here again is proof of what it means to have an obedient dog which, though he may under certain circumstances occasionally go out of control, still reacts immediately to signs and commands.

Just one warning before this lesson is ended. It is unwise to repeat the exercise too often in succession for it may bring about an unfortunate association of ideas in the mind of the dog. Which is to say, that it may tempt him always to wait for the command STOP when he is summoned. Many dogs in fact, slow down when approaching as if expecting the command DOWN when half way to the guide. Once in a while, then, after calling the dog, use the STOP sign to keep him alert but do not practise it too often.

The time of practise remains unchanged.

TENTH LESSON

JUMPING

At the command OVER, the dog must jump over an obstacle or jumping board.

This, the liveliest exercise of the entire training course, is welcomed by participants because of the variety it gives to the sometimes monotonous, oft repeated routine. It is usually executed with real enjoyment by the guide as well as by the dog; and it is remarkable how a dog, which in the beginning may show aversion and even clumsiness, later becomes a very graceful jumper.

Students frequently object to the jumping lesson out of fear that the dog will jump every fence or obstacle in his way and thus get out of control, as for instance, when he is confined in a yard. This fear, however, is without foundation inasmuch as the dog is taught to obey a command. To jump of his own accord, whenever he has the desire, would prove lack of obedience which can and will be overcome by permitting him to jump only on command.

First let me warn the guide against jumping his dog at too early an age. Unfortunately, puppies are sometimes

subjected to strains beyond their strength and this should not be permitted. In fact, no dog under ten months of age should be sent over the jumping board for his bones are too soft, and many a good dog has been spoiled by teaching him to jump too young. Jumps even over low boards are attended by considerable shoulder strain when the dog lands, and we all know that great disadvantage of loose shoulders to competitors at bench shows. Not alone the height of the jump either, but constant repetition of the jump, will bring about the same defect or malformation. Yes, it's great fun to watch those graceful jumpers, but do not repeat such performances merely to satisfy the pleasure of the spectators or the guide.

I am quite proud of the fact that, in 1928, I had in one of my classes a student who set the world's record for German shepherd dogs in jumping and scaling a height of twelve feet four inches. Great credit is due this student because accomplishment of the record required years of patient training, plus infinite care in the gradual increase of the jumping height in order to avoid over-strain of the dog.

The jumping board, which should be no more than four feet high for a full-grown dog, can be gradually raised to the desired height. Begin with a height of only, say, two feet—if the dog is small, not higher than his shoulder so that he can look over and beyond the obstacle.

Start off this lesson with a few of the exercises previ-

ously learned, i.e., HEELING, SITTING, DOWN, and as with every exercise *on the leash*. The dog already understands the command HEEL, wherefore school-like handling of the leash may be eliminated: it should be held quite short, in the *left* hand only. In such position, with the short-leashed dog at one's left, step with him over the jumping board, encouraging with the command HEEL and, without stopping, continually praise him. After circling and walking over the obstacle (guide and dog) probably three times, the dog as a rule will overcome any first indicated resistance, and will step over without hesitation. If, however, he still should resist, continue the exercise until he goes over with a little jump. Ordinarily three times will suffice.

As soon as this part of the lesson has been mastered the guide, for the first time, commands JUMP or OVER, choosing but one of these commands and using the same word each time. But do not attempt to instill this command until the dog learns to step over the board with his guide, and altogether without resistance. Continue the exercise three times more, issuing the command JUMP or OVER at the very instant he is to take the jump, not too soon, not too late!

For the purpose of determining whether or not the dog understands the command, let the guide walk toward the board and stop suddenly before it as he issues the order OVER. Thinking that the guide is following, the dog

will jump as he hears the command. This time the hold on the leash should be lengthened enough so the dog will not become entangled. Once the dog has cleared the board, the guide, who is still holding him on the leash, should walk around the board and go straight on ahead, giving the command HEEL, coincidentally praising and petting the pupil. Then after circling around, the guide may again approach the board and repeat the exercise several times.

When it is certain that the dog has learned this much of the exercise, raise the board a little higher, to the level of the dog's head. This time, keeping the dog on his left side, the guide should approach the board, pass it without stopping, and at the same time issue the command OVER, if necessary helping the dog over with a slight jerk. But never pull a dog over a board or other obstacle.

This part of the jump should not be attempted until the dog has learned to step over the board easily with his guide. If he has to be pulled over, it is clear that he does not understand what is expected of him. To force him over will only arouse fear and aversion to the exercise. Often such hesitancy is observed with dogs that have been overfed, and sometimes a shy or timid dog will reflect the same attitude. However, the fault can be overcome in every case by careful handling while the dog is being familiarized with the board in stepping over it with his guide.



1. The guide walks over the board with the dog Heeling on a short leash. 2. Continue with the command Over and keep on going. Repeat several times. 3. The guide passes around the board, allowing the dog to take the jump while still on the leash.

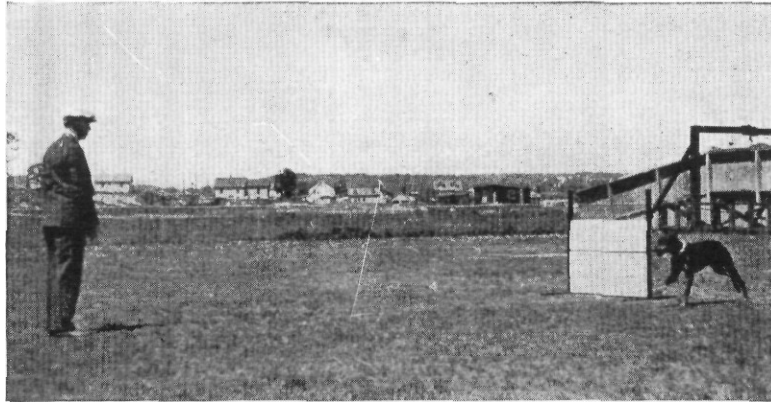
The lesson should be executed speedily, though not at a run, when approaching the board. To scale a height of three or four feet a medium sized dog need not run but can make the jump from a standing position. A long run will only result in the dog's loss of jumping power because he may be unable to estimate the height.

Many guides make the mistake of stopping and waiting until the dog is over the board. This is what the dog expects, so that he *will not jump* because he has been trained to sit whenever the guide stops. Despite the fact that the dog is HEELING without the leash, it is essential to go through this exercise with him on the leash for the simple reason that he will break away before he learns to jump freely.

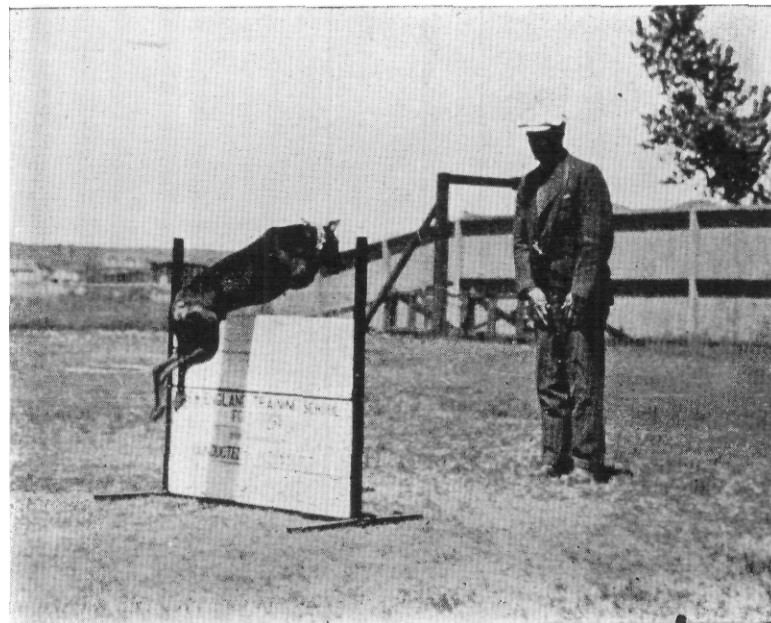
The next step is to raise the board to its full height of from three to four feet, then after the dog is absolutely sure of taking the obstacle correctly, to start on the jump coming back.

This, too, is executed with the dog on the leash. First, set the board at the dog's shoulder height, and after he goes over in the usual manner, give the command BACK accompanied by a light jerk of the leash. The guide must remain behind the board and must never follow the dog when he goes over.

Because this lesson is undertaken with the dog on leash, it is fair to assume that the guide is responsible for the few errors which may occur. Later, when it is executed



A too long distance between the obstacle and the guide will cause the dog to walk around the obstacle.



A short distance between the obstacle and the guide will cause the dog to jump the obstacle.

without the leash, the guide oftentimes allows the dog too long a run. This can have but one result: the dog goes around the board instead of jumping over. The run, therefore, should be no longer than the height of the board, that is, if the board is four feet, then the run approach must be four feet.

Lack of command constitutes another error; likewise running too fast toward the board, and walking too slowly. The peppy dog will exert all his strength in speeding to the board, but this must be prevented for it results in loss of control on the part of the guide. If the dog is too peppy, deceive him by keeping him on leash, then pass close to the board with the command HEEL but disappoint him by not permitting him to jump!

Another method of toning down the dog that is too lively or energetic at the board is to put him through several obedience exercises in front of the board before allowing him to jump. Under the HEEL command, walk in the direction of the board, stop before it and command SIT, DOWN, SIT, also do several turns to right and left, then proceed with the command OVER. After he has made the jump, execute the same orders, SIT, DOWN, SIT, STAY; then BACK, HEEL and SIT.

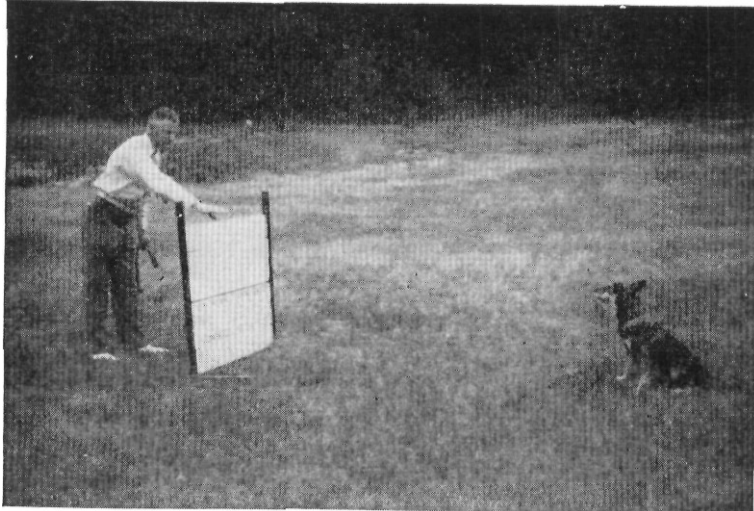
Now is the crucial time to see that the jumping lesson is executed in the right way. This means a review of all lessons taught thus far. For instance, before the dog makes the jump over the board, have him SIT beside his guide.

After he has made the return jump, have him SIT in front of his guide awaiting the command HEEL.

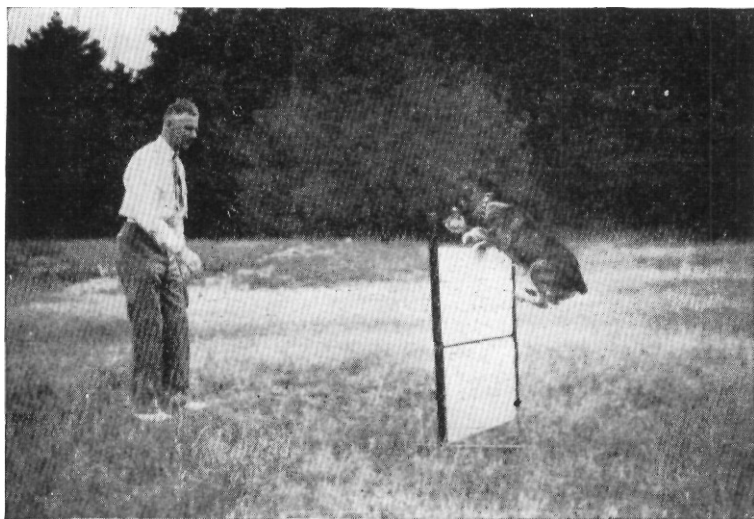
This execution is necessary for obedience tests at dog shows: it is also preparation for retrieving lessons to come. For practical everyday purposes, that is, on the street, it is better to call the dog and command him to HEEL, for often there is no opportunity to sit in front of the guide. In other words, the dog must not be permitted to wander about, but should be kept at the guide's side.

Again let me emphasize that just so long as the dog is not under complete control, he must be worked on the leash. With the dog under absolute control, the guide may start without the leash but he must remain close to the board to prevent the dog from going around. The command BACK should follow the moment the dog is on top of the obstacle, so as to avoid having him run away when he reaches the other side of the board. Yes, a good jumper is invariably admired by critics and spectators alike, and when jumping is not overdone it constitutes a healthful exercise because so many of the dog's muscles are brought into play.

And now, a few suggestions about the jumping board itself. It must always be in prime condition. Boards warped by rain or dampness must be replaced immediately if injury to the dog is to be prevented. Of particular danger is space between the boards which can easily cause broken toe-nails. To avoid breakdowns, the board must



Off the leash. Having been issued the command, Sit-Stay, the dog is now told to Come Over. As he hesitates, he is given the encouraging command and sign



So he jumps, landing

be strong and solid for, should it break under the dog's weight, time will be lost in persuading the dog to go over it again even though he is not injured at the time it gives way. And then training must be started all over again as described in the beginning of this lesson!

When a dog jumps, he should clear the board, not leave his hindlegs on it. Some dogs habitually use the board as an aid to jumping but this cannot be considered a clean jump. To prevent, use a hurdle made with tree branches clipped evenly at the top, in which case the dog will very soon realize he cannot get a good hold and will thereafter clear the obstacle with a correct jump.



in sitting position in front of the guide. The command heel brings the "finish" and the dog Sits at the guide's left.

The acceptable jump, then, will be executed as follows, using the commands taught up to now:

At the command HEEL, walk toward the board and stop with the command SIT.

At the command OVER, the dog takes the obstacle.

At the command COME, he returns and stops in sitting position in front of his guide.

At the command HEEL the dog makes the FINISH exercise as described in lesson No. 6, and goes into the original position close to the guide's left side.

It is essential for the guide not to move throughout the execution of all of these exercises. If the exercises are carried out to the letter, as herein explained, the commands can soon be eliminated entirely, and in an amazingly short time the dog will understand what is wanted. In fact, he will follow the established routine without the spoken command.

No particular time is designated for this lesson which should be worked in with previous lessons for the purpose of making obedience training more interesting.



Combined scaling and jumping through a window. Height 10 feet. Executed by Bodo v.d. Mueritz, New Milford, N.J., 1927.

ELEVENTH LESSON

LONG OR BROAD JUMP

THE COMMAND—Same as in **Lesson No. 10**—**OVER**

The execution of this exercise, which is related to the high jump, is identical with that of the previous lesson, except that a trench about one foot deep is used. Naturally trenches cannot be dug indoors, nor outdoors either without ruining lawns and yards, consequently boards will serve the purpose if built up to a height of about one foot. It is advisable in the beginning to use two boards placed closely together. As the dog has become accustomed to the command **OVER**, he will follow the guide without difficulty when the latter steps over the board obstacle and at the same time issues the command-

Walk over the obstacle again, then next time pass around it, commanding the dog to jump in the same manner as that employed in executing the high jump. As soon as the dog has learned to make the jump without touching the boards, widen the space between them to about six inches.

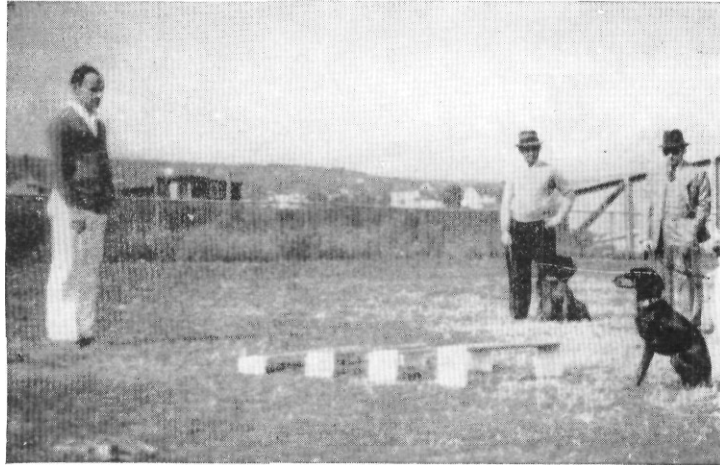
When the dog has learned to clear this jump correctly,



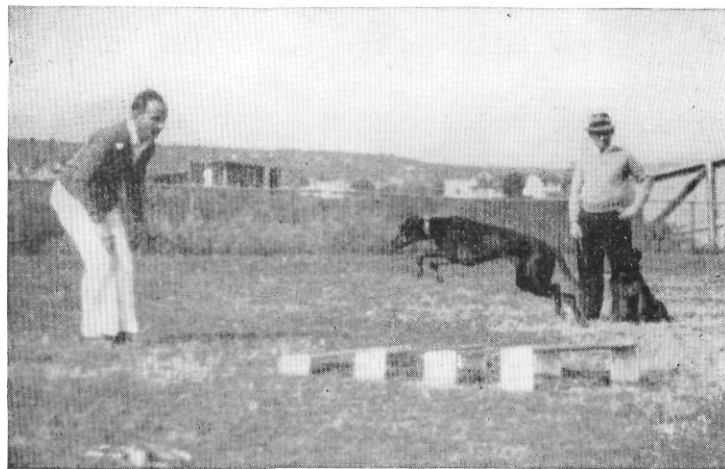
Two boards are used in the beginning, with more added gradually.



Placing the boards upright as shown will prevent the dog from stepping on them as he goes over-



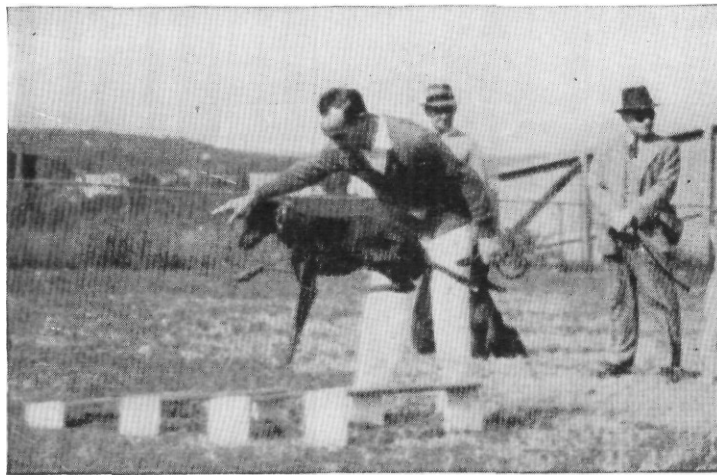
CORRECT: SIX-STAY in front of boards.



OVER

gradually increase the distance between the boards to two or three feet until finally, for a dog of medium size, the limit of the six-foot breadth is reached. The space between the boards of course should vary in proportion to the size of the dog, but should never exceed six feet. What is more, additional boards will be needed, when extending the distance, to prevent the dog from landing between them.

Occasionally the dog will clear the jump successfully but will step on the boards. This is not considered a clean jump and must be prevented. If the fault continues, place the boards sidewise, instead of flat, in order to provide as little surface as possible for the dog to step on. Execute the lesson at a rapid pace. The limit distance of



Guide beside the board as required in dog-shows.

six feet should not be used in the beginning, for the temptation to step on the boards will prove too much and the dog may for that reason alone develop into an "unclean" jumper.

This lesson may be used in connection with previous exercises, at no definite point in the exercises but started before the dog has grown tired. With this much experience behind him, the guide should be able to recognize signs of weariness in his dog: he should be able to sense aversion to the exercise brought about possibly by over-exertion.

To complete the exercise, the guide should stop in front of the board, the dog sitting at his left. At the command OVER, the dog should jump, then return to the sitting position before him. At the command HEEL he should swing to the guide's left or into the original position.

TWELFTH LESSON

RETRIEVING

THE COMMAND—FETCH

***The Sign*—Lift the right hand in the direction in which the dumbbell is thrown.**

The dog is in sitting position at the guide's left. The dumbbell is thrown, the command FETCH given. The dog runs for the dumbbell, picks it up and returns to the guide, stopping in front of him, in sitting position and with the dumbbell still held **in** his mouth. At the command OUT, the dumbbell is taken from the dog's jaws, as he remains in sitting position until ordered HEEL. He then swings around to the sitting position at the guide's left.

This lesson is the most playful exercise **in** the entire training course, especially when the dog is inclined to play or to retrieve. Every puppy's natural instinct for play takes the form of chasing an object that rolls along the ground. This instinct must be taken advantage of during puppyhood else the dog may, when fully grown, develop a dislike for the retrieving exercise.

It is most unfortunate when a dog evinces no interest

in retrieving for then teaching becomes a truly difficult task requiring an enormous amount of patience and endurance on the part of both guide and dog. What I recommend in order to obtain correct results may appear a very tedious routine, nevertheless it is only through perseverance that the exercise can be learned.

Oftentimes guides say it is impossible to teach retrieving. They give up with, "I cannot do it!" Now, in the lexicon of dogdom there is no such word as *fail*. And so after long continued practise, we find these same guides making commendable retrievers of their dogs!

Psychologically, a knowledge of retrieving is a necessary step toward successful trailing, that is, a good retriever will be much better equipped to perform the work of trailing for this reason: When a dog finds a hidden object but does not know how to return it (retrieve) to his guide, the purpose of the entire lesson is lost. It is evident, therefore, that we cannot eliminate the retrieving lesson with the excuse that it is too difficult because the lesson itself cannot be completed until the art of retrieving has been thoroughly acquired.

Let us start off, not with the dumbbell but with an object the dog prefers. Every dog has some plaything he adores, a ball, a doll or perhaps an old bone. Hold the dog, then, by the collar, and with the left hand scratch the ground with this object he likes best. Use encourag-

ing words like "Watch it" while moving the object to the right and left to attract his attention.

Practically every dog will run after a thrown object and try to fetch it. When he does, the first hurdle toward success has been surmounted! Throw the object just a little distance, repeating frequently such encouraging words as "soisfine!", "bring it," etc. As soon as he makes even the slightest effort to pick it up, praise and pet him, thus explaining that he is doing what is expected of him. In fact, be extremely generous with your praise, for the full measure of success depends upon promoting the joy of play.

It has been claimed that a dog trained to retrieve through love of play is never dependable on the assumption that he will not retrieve unless in playful mood. That such fear, however, is without foundation is substantiated by the many excellent retrievers schooled in the manner suggested.

Even slight force may be used, if it seems necessary to arouse interest; at the same time, care must be taken not to hurt the dog lest he consider the exercise punishment rather than play and upon that basis resent it and refuse to respond. Employ only sufficient punishment to show him that refusal to obey means punishment whereas obedience brings praise.

In order to achieve the desired end, start off with a preparatory lesson which, though in itself indirect, con-

statutes progress because it teaches the dog to carry an object. With the dog at his left, the guide holds the object or the dumbbell in his right hand. With his left



Take it—Hold it.

hand he opens the dog's mouth by taking hold of the head beneath the eyes and pressing slightly the thumb to the left and the middle finger to the right side of the mouth into the lips between the teeth. This opens the dog's jaws.

With the right hand, place the object or the dumb-bell between the jaws, not too far into the mouth but just so it can be grasped with the big teeth or fangs. At the moment, command HOLD IT. The first few times many dogs will resist, but three, four or five repeats will teach proper grasp of the object. Then praise with "good dog" or commendatory words of some sort, accompanied by plentiful petting. And regardless of how many times the dog drops the object, repeat the operation of placing it in his mouth until he holds it.

Now remaining at the dog's side, try to walk with him while he retains the object in his jaws. Repeat the commands, HEEL and HOLD IT, accompanied by words of praise when he responds correctly.

Should the dog release his grip on the object before the command to drop it is given, use the punishing command SHAME, or NO, immediately replacing the dumb-bell in his mouth. Then start again and repeat the whole procedure over and over until he does it right. It is difficult for some dogs to master this exercise, but patience and endurance will bring about the desired result for both dog and guide.

When this much has been thoroughly learned, practise several exercises, like HEEL, SIT, DOWN, LEFT and RIGHT TURNS, as the object is carried, but do not neglect to encourage all the while.

The dog should never give up the object unless told

to do so. When the guide is ready to take the object from the dog, he gives the command OUT, at the same time grasping the object with his right hand and drawing it from the dog's mouth. If the dog refuses to let go, open his jaws forcibly by the same method as before described.

It is inadvisable to walk the dog too far with the object in his mouth, during the earlier stages of practise in this exercise, owing to the fact that his jaws will tend to become cramped until such time as he learns to carry with greater ease. Also, do not punish him in case he does the exercise correctly one time and fails the next, for this is a sign that he does not understand fully. Repetition is the sole means of teaching him to hold and carry correctly. And let him assume the sitting position while learning to hold the object in his fangs. Therefore step right in front of him in order to accustom him to the correct delivery, as explained next.

We have now arrived at a point where the dog will carry and give up an object on command. Next, we will teach him to pick up an object from the ground, and as this is not infrequently attended with difficulty, again let me advise great patience!

Try to attract the dog's attention by rubbing the object on the ground before him, and hold him by the collar, prongs outside in the event a training collar is used. If the dog is sufficiently interested to jump after the object, only a few words of praise are required to

induce him to pick it up. If he shows no interest, take him by the collar, prongs inside this time, with the right hand.

As in the previous instance, the object is moving in front of the dog. It is thrown a short distance. Now follow along with the dog, still holding him by the collar. Stop close to the object and, using slight pressure to bring the dog's jaws to the object, force it between the jaws with the encouraging command TAKE IT. Immediately he opens his jaws, release the pressure on the collar and give praise so that he will understand what is desired.

If this exercise is performed exactly as described, the dog of average intelligence will grasp it quickly after two or possibly three repetitions. If, however, he does not learn readily after a few trials, then divert his attention to something familiar and go back to it after he has recovered from his initial distaste for the exercise. It is not unusual for a guide to realize after a little self-examination that he himself is at fault. Perhaps he did not release the pressure on the collar; perhaps he forgot to give the command or did not make it sufficiently clear for the dog to understand what was required of him.

When the dog reaches the stage at which he will pick up the object, then command HOLD IT again. Start walking, praising all the way. Just a few repetitions will serve to convince the dog he is doing right.

The next step is to remain standing with the dog sitting at the left of the guide. Command SIT-STAY. Throw the dumbbell, or other object, a little distance away and, with the command FETCH, send the dog after it. Off he goes, and just as he stops at the object, command TAKE IT. When he picks it up, praise him and command BRING IT, accompanied with the encouraging words HOLD IT, HOLD IT, repeated several times and coincidentally using the sign as explained in Lesson No. 7, COME WHEN CALLED.

When the dog approaches close to his guide, order him to SIT in front of him, holding the object in his jaws until the command OUT is given. Next, at the command HEEL, the dog swings around to the left side of the guide ready for a fresh start. This completes the correct delivery; in order to carry it straight through, the entire Lesson No. 7, or COME WHEN CALLED with which the dog is already familiar, can be used.

Most common in the accomplishment of this lesson is chewing the object or a slowing down in speed. The remedy is as follows: Let the guide take a few steps backward, thus encouraging the dog to follow and not giving him an opportunity to slow down. By so doing he will forget to stop for the purpose of chewing on the object.

In reality the lesson is not as difficult as it looks, and the guide must not permit discouragement and disappointment to nullify his patience or endurance, those two

essentials for success in retrieving instruction. For the benefit of guides who may become easily discouraged; who believe that their dogs will never master the art of retrieving, let me mention the case of two wire-haired terriers, the first of their breed to be trained for obedience tests in this country under my direction. Despite all the difficulties that stood in the way, these dogs became splendid retrievers because of the patience, the endurance and the interest exhibited by their guides. The following incident, too, may prove of assistance to some particularly discouraged guide.

T had in training a dog which would not respond to the retrieving exercise. After every known method was used, I devised a new plan. Each morning when the dog, equipped with collar and leash, was ready to go out-of-doors, I rolled the dumbbell around the floor in an endeavor to persuade him to pick it up. He refused, whereupon he was unleashed and told he must stay home!

Of course, he was disappointed, so after just a little more urging, he began to roll the dumbbell toward the door. Constant encouragement by means of "bring it over/" "that's fine," etc., as well as continued praising, in the end, had the desired effect. He picked up the dumbbell and was then allowed to go outside.

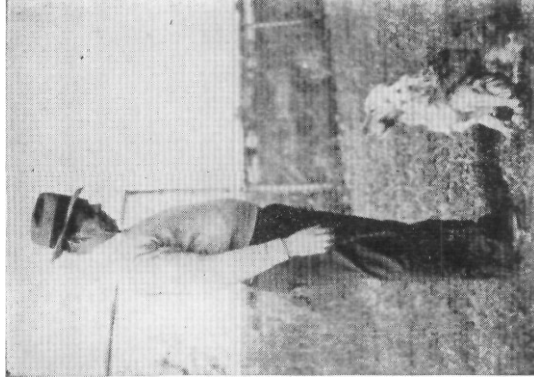
Retrieving was purposely avoided for the rest of the day, but next morning the identical performance was repeated, this time with less effort. He picked up the dumb-



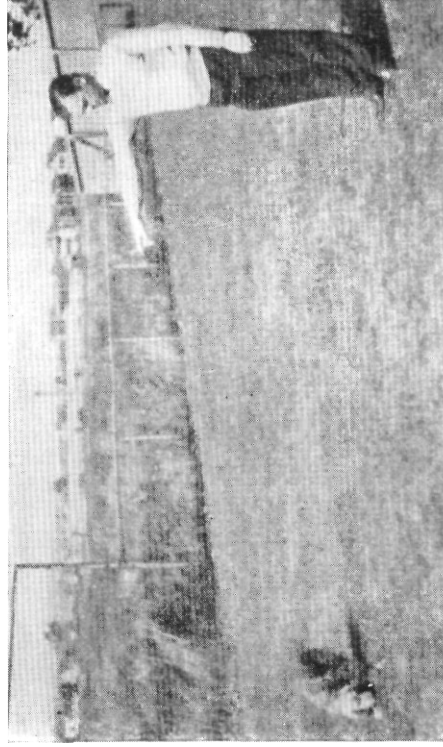
STAY



Throwing the dumbbell, as the left hand still gives the STAY sign.



Correct delivery.



Command FETCH as the right hand gives the sign.

bell more quickly and out we went! After the morning lesson, it was tried again, and soon this dog caught the spirit of the exercise to the full. He would fetch slippers, newspapers and other things, in the firm conviction that such acts earned him the chance to go out-of-doors.

The dumbbell I carried in a pocket where he could see it, and in this manner he was taught to HEEL on the leash. By throwing the dumbbell over a hurdle, he learned to jump. By hiding it, he learned to trail. By taking it away in the demonstration burglar act, he became excellent in man work (attacking and protection). Yes, some little trick can usually be found to stimulate a dog's interest in the thing you wish him to do.

Once the dog has become proficient in retrieving, he can go on to the next step which is a combination of the jumping and retrieving lessons. Strangely enough, in dog shows, the high jump is not recognized as an exercise as is the broad jump. Nevertheless it has to be executed under the title RETRIEVING AN OBJECT OVER AN OBSTACLE.

THE COMMAND—FETCH

***The Sign*—Right hand pointing in the direction in which the dumbbell is thrown, over the jumping board. The dog jumps the board both ways, over and return.**

The cleaner the execution, the better the degree, the greater the number of points. A meticulous judge will prefer a clean jumper, that is, one which takes the obstacle without allowing his hindlegs to touch the board as he goes over.

The guide stands near the jumping board and throws the dumbbell over while the dog sits at his left side awaiting the commands OVER, and FETCH. Once the command is issued, the dog takes the board in a clear jump, retrieves the dumbbell, returns over the board and sits before his guide, holding the object **in** his jaws until the command OUT is given. He then finishes by swinging around to the sitting position at his guide's left.

FAULTS—Most of the faults in this exercise are explained in the JUMPING and RETRIEVING lessons. However, walking around the board instead of returning over the board, also a slowing down **in** speed are most commonly observed.

CORRECTION—The most frequent faults are not especially difficult to correct. Walking around the board,

as a rule, is caused by too long a running distance or too high a board. Step near to the board, and be sure that the board itself is low enough for the dog to see his guide from the other side. Later, when the dog has learned this lesson more thoroughly, the board can be raised and the running distance can be increased. At the start, the jumping distance should not exceed the height of the board.

Much the same thing happens when the dumbbell is thrown over the board too far away. From a distance, the dog sees the guide and no longer considers the board an obstacle. Therefore he will come directly to the guide and avoid the return jump. For this reason the dumbbell should be thrown over the board only a short distance until such time as the dog is absolutely sure of jumping and retrieving correctly. And when he approaches too slowly, encourage him with "hurry up" or by clapping the hands.

A dog of lethargic temperament will in all probability execute this exercise slowly. However, as mentioned in the explanation of the retrieving lesson, an experienced judge can tell whether the dog is actually sluggish or whether he has been force-trained in such a way that he is not interested in his work; that he has in fact become only an automaton.

PREPARATION FOR OBEDIENCE TESTS

If instruction in all of the previous lessons has been carefully followed, the dog should be thoroughly trained in obedience and, if desired, can now be prepared for participation in obedience test competition. In order to do so, however, the exercises must be practised often, each time eliminating the repetition of commands and conspicuous signs. Repeated commands and too showy signs are considered by judges of too great assistance to the dog.

The well trained dog, in obedience test competitions, should work snappily with commands and signs not too apparent to the onlookers. True, this approaches mechanical routine, nevertheless it is the rule governing contests of the sort, hence has to be considered. Judges have quite some liberty, and opinions are by no means uniform.

Right at this point, before calling attention to the fact that in organized obedience test competition a choice must be made regarding one's method of directing the dog, let me explain more fully the reasons why, throughout all training, the dog needs the assistance of both signs and signals:

In the first place, he must be capable of serving both normal and handicapped persons. For example, the dog destined for the deaf mute will be expected to work by means of signs, while the dog destined for the sightless must be directed by command or the spoken word.

In the second place, in the more serious phases of trailing, as in tracking lost persons, malefactors and such, the dog must be schooled to recognize every type of encouragement and direction which might enable him to find his man! Where trailing in real life may mean, as it has so often meant in the past, the apprehension of criminals, even life or death to the quarry at the end of the road, the dog must be speeded to his mark by means of all possible aid that can be given him. His quality of receptiveness to his guide's direction must be developed. It can be developed in one way only: by providing the "raw" dog, from *the very beginning, with every known kind of assistance in order to make him understand exactly what is required of him*,. Insofar as we can, we must make learning easy, not hard. We must help, not hinder, the dog for there may be much at stake when he is called upon to put his training to practical use in the service of mankind.

In obedience test procedure of the present day, which of course is more stereotyped than real-life training performance, the guide is permitted only one type of direction. He may employ signs or he may employ commands, but not both in the one exercise, else he will be penalized

by the judge. This is why I have suggested in foregoing paragraphs the gradual elimination of repetitious commands and of too flamboyant signs. More, I would suggest, as preparation for obedience test competition the practise of each exercise, once it has been firmly inculcated in the dog's mind, with signs alone, or with commands alone, whichever appears advisable under existing circumstances.

To prove it perfectly possible to have a satisfactory working dog that responds to few, almost invisible signs, let me mention that the performance of dogs belonging to a deaf mute pupil in one of my classes has attracted much comment in the newspapers. Serious concentration and regular practise can accomplish a great deal for every guide, especially those **not** handicapped as are the deaf and the sightless.

CHILDREN IN TRAINING CLASSES

Many requests for organizing and directing training classes for children have come to me from clubs since 1928, when I exhibited for the Shepherd Dog Club of New England the first children's class with trained Shepherd dogs in this country. The dogs, most of which were imported from Europe and possessed the true Shepherd dog character which is not desired over here, behaved very well, and no trouble occurred despite the fact that

the children ranged in age from two to ten years. The dogs and their youthful guides went through their paces with not the slightest difficulty. All of the dogs of course had been trained by their adult owners, and under the su-



Children in dog training classes.

pervision of the owners the children had practised under my direction for the exhibition.

The above mentioned requests I refused because I believe that, though in many ways a recreation, dog training is work for adults. Children love play, not work! For this reason I append the following suggestions regarding ex-

hibitions at shows or other public entertainments: Have the dogs trained by adults inasmuch as very few children understand the difference between work and play with a dog.

A PREFACE TO TRAILING

It would prove useless to proceed with the following lessons in TRAILING unless the dog possessed a thorough knowledge of the lessons already explained. More harm than good would result if the next succeeding lesson were started with a dog just superficially trained, and lacking the art of perfect execution in any of the foregoing exercises.

All of the lessons that have been studied up to this point are essential for the purpose of working up to successful TRAILING, and many failures attributable to the incorrect execution of some. Especially is this true in the case of the amateur with his first dog, if he happens to be lucky enough to own a smart specimen which picks up commands readily.

The guide must study with the greatest care the next chapter and must keep his dog in regular, steady training. The slightest neglect will result in failure. And so, let me warn once more: If you would forestall failure, keep in mind this matter of regular practice; eliminate commands as much as possible, and keep signs as inconspicuous as can be done.

TRAILING should not be started until the dog has

had at least six months of constant training in the twelve preceding lessons. Spend not less than thirty minutes daily in faithful exercise. The lessons can, of course, be divided into two sessions of fifteen minutes, morning and evening.

TRAILING OR TRACKING

Trailing is the most interesting phase of the training process for those real friends of the dog who wish to go into training more scientifically. This new department differs markedly from all of the lessons and exercises in which we can assist the dog to grasp ideas or, as it were, force exercises upon him. Not alone does it afford knowledge of a dog's character and too, of his ability to perform lessons like those which have preceded, but it proves a high standard of mentality.

There are many exhibitions put on at shows or other public performances. However, like the so-called "scent discrimination" test in which the dog retrieves an article belonging to his owner, these constitute entertainment rather than real work. Scent discrimination, as practised today, is a splendid preparation for beginners, though far removed from actual trailing practise.

I refer now to scent discrimination of an article belonging to a stranger, out-of-doors, never in a closed hall; also to the distinction between objects dead and alive, to the readiness to attack, to full and concentrated attention to the trail regardless of temptations, etc. These are the things a perfect trailer must know and do.

To teach correct trailing, for many years, has been my favorite exercise, which is probably why I wish to describe in the greatest detail the handling and training of the dog for trailing. How strange it seems that this type of training, which could be of such enormous assistance to police and to many of a community's institutions, is so neglected! The great prevalence of crime, including fatalities to children, to people lost in the woods, of amnesia victims and countless similar tragedies could be reduced considerably: crimes could be solved and perhaps prevented by the use of well trained dogs. While almost all European countries employ hundreds, yes even thousands of trained police dogs, it seems strange that such a progressive step has yet to be introduced in this country.

In training classes which I have conducted, the enthusiasm of participants has been especially pronounced following my lectures on the subject of trailing; everybody, in fact, seems determined to begin at once on this interesting feature. But sad to relate, after several experiments which as a rule do not turn out very satisfactorily, interest wanes. Or, what is equally as unfortunate, a slight momentary success is exaggerated and the trainer bitterly disappointed when results fall short of his expectations. Lack of experience, lack of knowledge and lack of patience constitute the reasons for such failures.

All three of the foregoing are points of prime importance.

Now this exercise should not, perhaps, be undertaken without first consulting a reliable trainer who has had real success in this particular field; more, one who has studied dogs in addition to all available literature on the subject. Although there are several good books on the market, the prospective trainer should not get the idea that, insofar as this exercise is concerned, he can make a successful trailer from book directions alone. While it is true that training books are of real assistance, it is true likewise that the dog's character must first be studied and then the training system adjusted to it. What I mean is that the trainer must use his own imagination and creative thinking while engaged in training lessons.

Therefore, let us endeavor to understand, in its larger aspects, this activity called training, and let us also try to learn from the experience of others. I myself have been given wonderful assistance and advice by authorities such as Captain von Stephanitz, Th. Zell, Gersbach, Most, Dr. Friedo Schmidt and others who have made names for themselves through research and experimental work. And I have made many experiments of my own. Of these I shall mention the most successful in an effort to save the amateur from the very disappointments I experienced, and to encourage him along the road to success.

Of greatest importance is the breed of dog which is

endowed with the highest type of innate ability for this kind of work. Truly, my heart bleeds when I see dragged through obedience tests dogs lacking in temperament, in character and spirit. On top of that, a so-called scent discrimination exercise is perhaps put on in a very restricted, indoor hall, or in a smoke-filled room amid ear-splitting noises, just after the dog has been lying for hours tied up in an all-too-tiny stall. The exercise, then, becomes nothing more than an automatic performance or routine drill: it is not trailing work!

Let us take this work with utmost seriousness and, from the bottom up, investigate the problem ahead.

1. What breeds are suitable for trailing?
2. What is scent?
3. How can scent be used by the dog?

On innumerable occasions I have heard it said that hunting dogs are especially good trailers simply because it is their nature to trail in the field. Now there is widespread error prevalent concerning the trailing of human scent. Animals possess but a few variations of foot, body and blood odor, while man has millions, and no two alike. The odor of hands, feet and under-arms differ in degree in every human being which alone constitutes proof that few hunting dogs are adapted to trailing man, or articles in constant contact with man. Animal blood scents, which are far easier to follow, are the determination for hunting dogs.

Dogs with flat noses, such as Mastiffs, Boxers, Bulldogs, Pugs and Pekingese are not well fitted for trailing human beings. Toy dogs—Pomeranians, for instance—are house dogs, and close contact with man in houses, apartments and similar indoor places, destroys or at least weakens their sense of scent. Such weakness is due to warm temperature as well as to sudden changes from outside to inside, especially in wintertime. This is another reason why dogs of this type are not suited to trailing.

An occasional Schipperke, Chihuahua and dogs of similarly small kinds, brought up under identical conditions can, it is true, claim a few show successes in obedience test trailing, but at the same time they are exceptions. These exceedingly few successes cannot be said to controvert the real facts I have explained under breed suitability.

Best suited to trailing are German Shepherds, Doberman pinschers, Airedales, Rottweilers, Irish terriers and Schnauzers, in short, the working breeds. And even among these appear many exceptions. Dogs brought up indoors, for example, lose their trailing ability while dogs living outside, in the open air retain their natural trailing sense.

For centuries the secret of trailing, or tracking, was considered to be vibrations to which the dog's nose reacted favorably. Later was advanced the theory that certain radiations or rays were responsible. Modern science, the science of chemistry especially, exploded these theo-

ries with proof that human perspiration is of value to the dog in detecting a scent. And as the agent of scent, it is perceptible only to the highly developed sense of smell in dogs.

Human scent is caused by perspiration, a chemical combination of various acids produced by certain glands in quantities more or less, and left in the track of every human being, on the ground as well as in the air. Causes of profuse perspiration may be illness, atmospheric conditions, excitement or fear, and alcohol. Strangely, the scent of an intoxicated person is quite distasteful to the dog though he will follow it more intensively than any others.

Human sex scents appear to be different, hence it is true that a male dog tracking a female criminal is more interested than a bitch in working out the trail of a criminal of her own sex. Which proves that the opposite sex attracts, and greater success attends when a dog of opposite sex is employed to track a suspected criminal.

Perspiration in the greatest amounts is transferred normally by the feet in walking, or by the hands in touching articles. Almost all trails are left by the feet, and though the perspiration odors of hands, feet and under-arms differ, their scents are closely related, thus easily followed by the dog. The hands and feet have highly developed sweat glands which constitutes the reason why perspiration produced by these members is stronger than that of

any other part of the human body. Possibly, if all could live under a uniform standard, that is, eat the same food, live in the same climate under exactly the same conditions, the difference might not be so great. However, this is impossible, with the result that every human being gives off a somewhat different vapor.

Each one of us, irrespective of his condition of health, is subject to a constant activity of the sweat glands, which develops a certain steam or vapor of sufficient intensity to go through clothing as well as shoes. With every step our shoes leave on the ground an infinitesimal layer of perspiration, which is perceptible to the fine olfactory nerves of the dog. Limited space forbids explanation of the complete transfer and evaporation of perspiration, but let me assure you, it is a most interesting chemical process. Much research and experimentation along these lines has been done, and considerable credit is due Dr. Freido Schmidt who has done more in this field than any other specialist in the world.

The above will serve to familiarize us with a trail's process of development. Now comes the question: How long will the trail last before evaporating to the point where it will no longer be perceptible to the dog? The answer to the question is essential in order to acquaint the guide with those obstacles he must consider in "how scent can be utilized by the dog."

Intensity or freshness of the trail, weather conditions

and the condition of the ground are of great importance, not alone to the experienced guide or trained dogs but also to the amateur who must take these things into consideration from the start if he would save himself disappointment.

When a dog is actually set on the trail, it is natural that the scent should be more pronounced because of the excitement of the fugitive. The latter's rapid heart beat causes increased glandular activity resulting in more than the normal quantity of perspiration and thus accentuating the trail. This is of real assistance to the dog.

Next, consider the age of the trail. Just so long as it is fresh, the dog can follow it with comparative ease. The longer the time that has elapsed between discovery of the crime and the call for the trailing dog, the more difficult the job. And in the event that new trails have been made by spectators or visitors passing over the same ground, it will be even more difficult, perhaps impossible for the dog to find a point at which to start his work.

All these factors are regarded as so vital by police departments, in Europe especially, that the only persons allowed at the scene of a crime are, first, the finger-print expert and, second, the police guide with his dog. The presence of all others is banned, which may be one of the reasons why crimes committed in European countries are solved so much more readily than here.

Weather conditions constitute another factor to which

the guide must give heed, especially when starting to train his dog for tracking. Hot, dry weather will evaporate a trail in a short time, while high humidity will hold scent in damp ground much longer because it absorbs the perspiration.

In proof of the foregoing statement, an interesting experiment was made with a heavy blotting pad. A man whose feet perspired abnormally stood on a blotter for a few moments while the moisture was absorbed. For a period of six hours the blotter was exposed to the sun which naturally killed every bit of odor. The same blotter was then held over steaming water, with the result that the sharp, penetrating odor became apparent again in its full strength. The ground has the same power of absorption as the blotter, which proves how great is the influence of the weather upon the duration of a trail.

The ground also must be carefully considered. Dusty ground, sandy or naked, stony ground is not good for trailing, especially when heavy traffic passes over it. Before the start of trailing, it is helpful to pour fresh water over the dog's nose to do away with any dust particles that may have lodged in the channels.

Wind direction is of great importance too, especially to the novice. Here, as in the preliminary obedience training, all possible aid must be given the dog to assist him in understanding what is wanted. If trailing is started with the wind, work will be rendered unnecessarily hard

for the dog and disappointment may result. In the beginning, therefore, lay the trail against the wind, so that the scent may be driven toward the dog, thus helping him to get on the right track.

The dog's condition is a point often overlooked by the novice who can find no explanation for his failure. Mention has been made previously that the dog out of control, or lacking in obedience, is not fitted for trailing. Furthermore, the trainer must make certain that the dog is absolutely fresh, and not in the least excited. In fact, it is inexcusable to practise trailing after the dog has gone through his daily exercises because, more or less in a state of excitement, he will pay little or no attention to the work at hand.

Excitement is not at all difficult to detect because of its almost invariable sign—the tongue hangs out of the mouth. A dog cannot trail properly with his month open! He seeks objects with his eyes and will not keep his nose on the ground because he cannot use it. This attitude of open-mouth seeking has been called by experts, "high nose" and so it is, exactly that.

Trailing must begin before any other exercise is started, regardless of time or circumstance and that means on the training field. It is advisable to change the field, or training territory as often as possible.

The time to practise is of especial importance, night practise being most essential. It is truly amazing, the

way a dog will work in strange territory, and particularly at night, not only in these trailing lessons but in ordinary obedience exercises as well. It has interested me especially to lay a trail late in the evening and allow the dog to work it out in the early morning. It's not only a thrill for guide and dog but a check-up on the manner in which the dog solves his problems, i.e., it is the stale trail which promotes the dog's skill.

Regarding the equipment for trailing, a leash of about ten yards is necessary. Many guides, especially novices seem to take pride in the trailing harness but this I have never considered an important tool. Dogs that I have trained have developed into satisfactory trailers by use of nothing more than a good collar and the above mentioned long leash. Often, too, have I employed the reversed training collar. As a trailing object, the dumbbell is a natural, permeated as it is with the scent of guide and dog both, hence the dog will regard it as his own special property.

As a foundation for trailing, we begin with scent discrimination, and as soon as this little problem is solved satisfactorily by the dog we must combine the exercise with trailing of the guide's own trail. Trailing should be started and practised in the beginning in this manner. The dog then becomes familiar with the sight of several articles, and he will learn to use his nose to distinguish between articles of his own and those belonging to his

master, as well as those giving off an entirely different scent. Recognition, of course, comes through the familiar scent of his own property.

I bring together several guides, each one carrying a standard-sized dumbbell which is marked with a number, or colored with thoroughly dried paint. It is a well known fact that dogs cannot distinguish colors, likewise that the odor or taste of painted articles causes them to refuse to take or to retrieve them. For this reason it may be advisable to mark the dumbbells by burning their number into the wood. And bear in mind that in order to become a good trailer, a dog must first be a good retriever.

The preparatory work explained thus far should now enable the guide to begin with SCENT DISCRIMINATION.

SCENT DISCRIMINATION

No difficulty should be experienced in this the easiest and simplest of all trailing exercises. Execution is the same as in the retrieving lesson save that there is more than one article or dumbbell on the ground. For this reason a group of several guides with obedience trained dogs is very advisable.

Arrange guides and dogs in a row, the dogs in sitting position. At the command STAY, the dogs remain sitting while the guides walk forward about ten yards and

place the dumbbells on the ground fairly close together but not piled up one on another. The dogs observe the procedure, then the guides return to their original positions beside the dogs.

All of the dogs are leashed except the one that is to retrieve his dumbbell from the group placed on the ground. To leave all free might prove too great a temptation to run after their dumbbells upon hearing the command FETCH. And, too, jealousy is created when a dog sees a rival too close to his own property.

Now, the dog that has been freed is given the command FETCH. Familiar with the order, he starts off immediately in the direction he saw his master take when putting down the dumbbell. Of course he finds several dumbbells on the ground but instinctively his sense of smell directs him to pick up his own and then retrieve it in the correct style.

FAULTS and CORRECTION-Seldom does a dog fetch the wrong dumbbell though occasionally such a mistake may happen due to huddling the dumbbells too closely together or placing one on top of another. It may happen too, through lack of attention, when he picks up the first dumbbell he comes to, just as he would in merely retrieving. He does not put his mind to nosing out the right one! Sometimes the distance between guide and dumbbell is too great and should be lessened. Still another handicap is the use of a new dumbbell which has not been

carried about until permeated with the scent of the guide. This of course is essential.

Conversation between guides during this exercise must be avoided. We cannot blame the dog for inattention



Scent **discrimination**.

when the guides themselves do not pay attention or interest themselves in their own work and observation alone! When a dog retrieves the wrong dumbbell, he should be given a sharp command, NO which will cause him to drop it. At the same time, he must be encouraged with the command, FETCH and the encouragement continued

until he retrieves the right one. If too many dumbbells are used, the number must be reduced, then gradually increased until the desired result is accomplished.

Just as soon as the dog has retrieved his own dumbbell, the latter should be returned to the group in order that all the dogs be given the same competition. The number of dumbbells placed on the ground should of course be identical for each dog, that is, if there are six guides in the group, six dumbbells are used for the purpose of providing each dog with an equal chance.

Repeat the scent discrimination exercise several times until the dog learns to retrieve his dumbbell in the correct manner, then gradually extend the distance to about twenty yards. Now because at this distance the dog's vision begins to fade, we use at this point a new command which will have a very important meaning **in** the coming exercise as the initial preparation for tracking.

FIND IT-FETCH is the combination-command employed **at** the twenty-yard distance. And as the dog is already familiar with FETCH, he will soon associate the new command with the act of retrieving. Most important is constant, steady encouragement which should be lavishly supplied.

The novice may question the statement that, at a distance of twenty yards, the dog's vision is imperfect. It is, however, a well established fact that the eyesight of the dog is not especially good. Aging dogs often become

blind, in fact, the spots appearing on the eyes of many is the first indication of impaired vision. How often we observe a dog, sitting in front of a store, sniffing at everyone who emerges, in the hope of detecting the master he knows has gone inside. Even at such a very short distance, the dog uses his sense of smell simply because his eyesight is so poor he can no longer depend upon it to recognize people he knows.

The distance of the combined retrieving and twenty-yard searching should be practised for a few days, then the distance extended little by little until the limit of thirty yards is reached. The conscientious guide will observe that some dogs have learned, at this distance, to keep their noses to the ground when following the scent, which of course is a good sign.

Dogs too lively, those which go storming right up to the dumbbell with "high nose" (without using the nose), must be quieted down by use of the long leash, especially for the real lesson of TRAILING.

TRAILING OR TRACKING-*Continued*

Exercise 1—LAYING THE TRAIL

In the previous lesson, we observed that at long range the dog brings his nose to the ground before he reaches the object, this being the case especially when the guide has paid attention to the direction of the wind. When the dog is facing into the wind, instantly recognized scent particles are carried to him from the object, these particles serving as a magnet to draw him in the right direction. This small accomplishment must be used to develop further trailing.

In order to make the start easier for the dog, many different angles must be considered when a trail is laid for the first time. Advice given in the chapter preceding—I refer specifically to the matter of ground and weather conditions—must now be followed implicitly.

For the beginner, an open field of short grass, such as a golf course or polo field for example, is ideal, and early morning, before the grounds have been used by others, the most auspicious time. This so-called "virgin ground" should be used by no one except guide and dog before the latter has profited by a certain amount of experience.

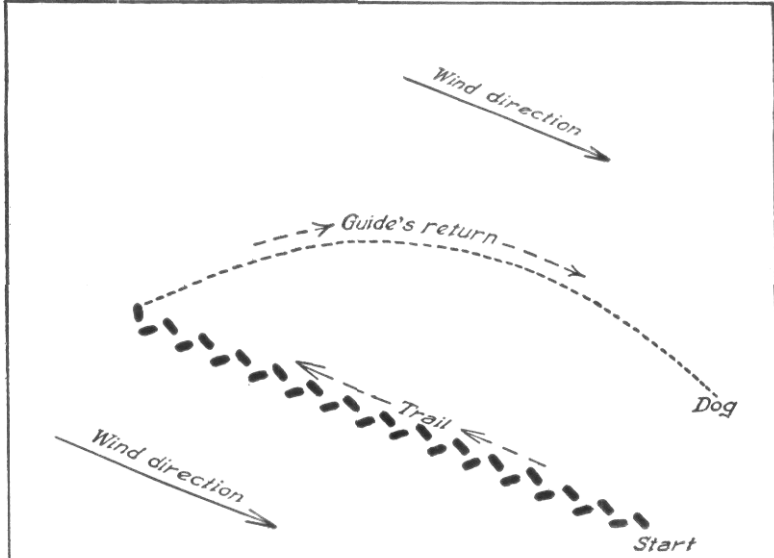


Fig. 1

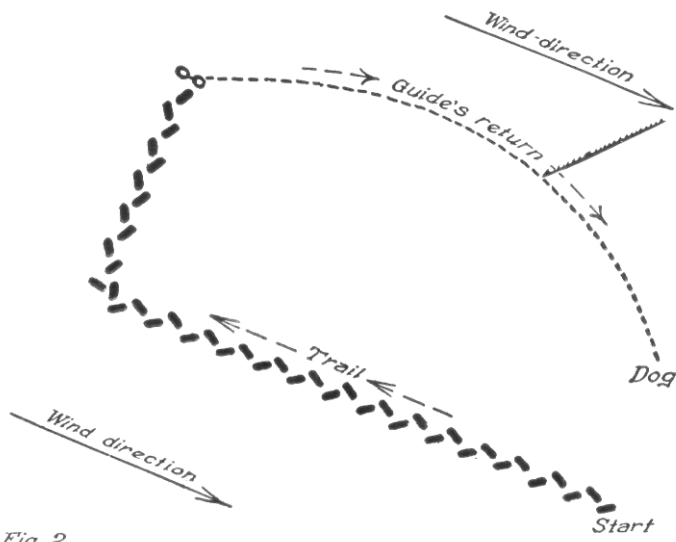


Fig. 2

Even spectators who might divert the dog's attention should be banned. In summer, early morning hours are chosen in order to avoid intense heat; likewise, at this time of day the direction of the wind may be more easily observed. And though cigarette or cigar smoke constitutes one means of determining wind direction, smoking should be eliminated because of its deleterious influence upon the dog.

What type of footgear shall the guide wear? This is a very important point. Well worn shoes are probably the best help to the dog, not however rubbers or rubber soled shoes. Some of my pupils, during the summer months, practise this lesson barefoot, thus rendering it easier for the dog to scent the trail and bringing success right off!

We are now ready to lay the first trail. The guide marks the starting point with a stick; with his feet scratching up the earth where he stands, before starting out on the trail. Hold the object of search under the arm and walk slowly against the wind in a straight line for perhaps fifty yards. Drop the article in front—don't toss it away—and remain in standing position for a few seconds to intensify the scent on the ground. This is the end of the trail, commonly called the "warm point" because naturally the end of the trail is fresher than the starting point which, having had a chance to cool off, is known as the "cold point." About face now, and return to the starting point. Walk with the wind, circling to avoid returning over

the freshly laid trail. Consult illustration on page 169, sketch No. 1.

Take care to lay the first trail in a straight line without deviating from the course, because the dog must be given all possible assistance at the start in order to teach him to find the article through his sense of smell, not by searching with his eyes.

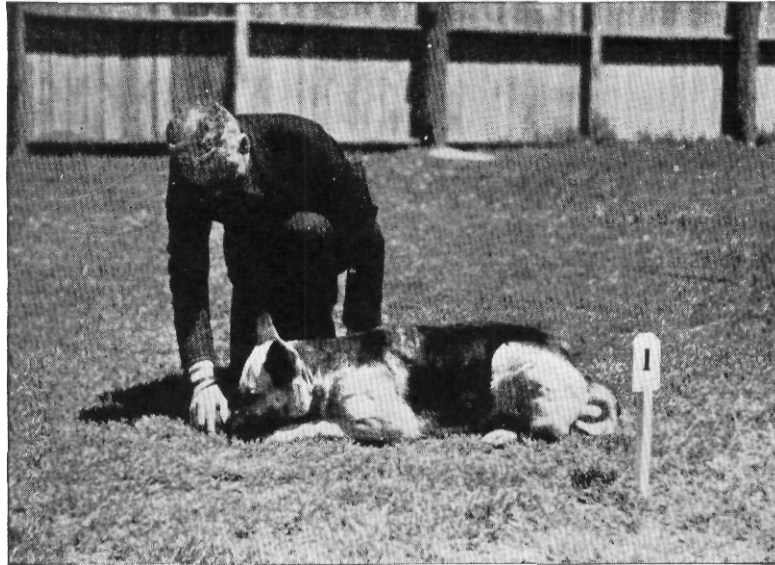
A moot point was raised during a discussion of some years ago when a well known expert declared that the original scent could be influenced by the juices of broken grass as the guide scraped his feet on the ground to mark the grass-plot trail. Experiments, however, have proved the claim groundless. In fact, investigation showed exactly the same chemical analyses at different points along the trail as at the beginning. The entire trail was laid on grass-covered ground and naturally the grass was broken at every step, yet the scent was just as pronounced.

Exercise 2—**TAKING THE SCENT**

While the trail is being laid the dog should be tied, in the **DOWN** position, near the starting point. The dog has watched the entire procedure. He noted what the guide did, the specific direction he took, and he even sensed that the guide returned without the article. Shortly, he will discover that it is his job to find the article when given the necessary assistance.

Now comes the work of explaining to the dog exactly what he is to do. The guide should go about this systematically, quietly and without exciting the dog. By this time the dog will be eager to see what is going on: he'll be ready to run right off in the direction taken by the guide, the moment the leash is picked up.

It is advisable to have the dog at the end of the long leash, and to lead him to the marked spot or starting point, praising him as he goes along. Here again the guide must be calm in his movements, never shouting or giving sharp commands which might excite the dog. The sign DOWN is given as soon as the starting point is reached. The guide



Giving the scent by gently letting the dog *take* the scent.

must hold the leash short in his left hand, then pass his right hand over the dog's nose in order to familiarize him with the scent. Next, he brings the dog's nose gently to the ground where the footprints of the trail have been made.

The guide is now in kneeling position, with the dog's nose to the ground. Give the command FIND IT, at the same time pointing the right hand in the direction the dog is to take. Do not push the dog's nose to the ground, or onto the trail, in fact, the gentler the action the better will be the result. And do not rush toward the trail or issue sharp commands. The calmer the execution of this exercise, the more easily the dog will react and the better the performance of succeeding trailing lessons.

First impressions remain with the dog all his life, consequently future success in trailing will depend largely upon the proper start. For this reason great emphasis is placed on the right beginning. Remember, the prime object of trailing is to allow the dog to *take* a scent but not to *give* him a scent!

Exercise 3—**SENDING THE DOG ON THE TRAIL**

At the command, the dog will sense that he is to go in the direction indicated by the guide. With the scent of his guide's hand still in his nose, the dog as a rule will follow the path taken by the guide comparing the hand scent

with the scent of the trail. The guide must give constant, steady encouragement, using quite frequently the gentle command FIND IT, and the familiar praise words, "sois-fine" or "that's it." There is no limit to the number of commands, also the more convincing the encouragement: given the better the result is bound to be.

The guide should follow closely, playing out more and more rope until the dog reaches the end of the trail. When he finds the article and is given the command FETCH, he should retrieve it correctly as described in Lesson No, 12. Too, the guide must observe carefully that RETRIEVING is executed right through to the FINISH. Naturally, the praise received at the end of the trail



Too hard pulling on the long leash tends to promote "eye trailing," as the opened mouth practically compels the dog to "spy" the object. Thus he is not using his nose for real trailing.

should be more pronounced than that accorded along the trail, in that manner indicating to the dog that he has done a good job satisfactory to the guide.

As learned in our first obedience lesson, the dog should not HEEL off the leash until he heels correctly without pulling on the leash. So it is with trailing. He must trail exactly right on the leash before he is allowed to trail off the leash else, the moment he is free, he will rush right after the article, looking for it, in other words, using his eyes instead of his nose. Close observation will serve to prove this statement. Usually, he will run with his mouth open and his nose high. As has been said before, a dog trailing with his nose in the air is not a trailer; and he'll be a distinct disappointment when worked over territory with which he is not familiar.

On various occasions I have met unskilled guides who seemed intensely proud of their dogs' trailing ability. The dog's nose was pushed to the ground: given the command, he sped away to return in a short while with the article! But, observation disclosed that in practically all of these cases the dog was looking for the article, that he was already familiar with the terrain, that no obstacle interfered and that nothing happened to attract the animal's attention in any way. To be exact; he rushed the trail with his nose in the air!

In those cases where I laid a very plain trail, not one of the dogs was able to work it out for this reason: They had

been too superficially trained in taking the scent but had never been taught to discriminate between the scent of different individuals. This proves also that there exists considerable difference in trailing.

The instance, however, is cited not with any intention of discouraging future guides but merely to impress upon them the necessity of taking the exercises seriously and of following instructions to the letter.

THE SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL TRAILS

After the first trail is satisfactorily worked out by the dog as well as by the guide, the straight fifty-yard trail has to be practised, at different places, until the dog is absolutely certain of this type of plain trail.

Let me warn the guide against proceeding, in his eagerness to accomplish the following exercises, if the dog is not sure of his first trail. We must consider that we are teaching the dog something that has to be built up on the basis of all previous exercises, and that the preliminary exercise must necessarily be practised more than once or twice if we desire a really dependable trailer. Successful workouts in three, four or even five lessons do not signify that the dog is a trailer. Far from it, the work has not yet begun!

Scientific study of trailing is based upon seven fundamentals which, in more or less varied combinations, will

repeat themselves in manifold forms. Regardless of the manner in which a trail is laid, regardless of the way in which it has to be worked out, we will always find these fundamentals in one way or another.

These fundamentals I will list as follows:

1. The straight trail.
2. The plain angle.
3. The double angle.
4. The circle or round trail.
5. The cross trail.
6. The multi-cross trail (two or more crossings).
7. The parallel trail.

THE STRAIGHT TRAIL-This type of trail, already explained in the preceding chapter, should be practised for several weeks before advancing to practise of the plain angle trail.

THE PLAIN ANGLE TRAIL-First, consult sketch No. 2, on page 179. This trail of, say, fifty yards, is followed by a sharp angle turn to the right or left (but only one turn) and then continued for about ten to twenty yards. By scratching the ground with his shoe the guide marks the angle and, as the dog works this trail, he pays special attention to see that the dog does not over-run the angle. If he does, then the extension of ten yards is usually too short. This drives the scent of the article to the dog which will not bother further with trailing but in-

stead go right after the article in order to pick it up. The extension will thus have to be made longer. This trail must be practised several times until the dog actually works it out directly with the proscribed angle.

THE DOUBLE ANGLE TRAIL--Now consult sketch No. 3. This exercise, which is closely related, will cause no difficulty when the advice given for the previous trail is strictly observed. Angle trails should not be made invariably in the same way, that is, always to the right or always to the left, but as varied as possible.

THE CIRCLE OR ROUND TRAIL--See sketch No. 4. Again we start off with a plain trail of fifty yards, but this time in a half or quarter circle. We must in this case make certain that the dog is actually working the trail and that he does not take a straight line to the hidden article because perchance the wind drives the scent directly to him. Nothing but steady, continuous, faithful practise will develop a good trailer on this type of trail which, as a matter of fact, is more difficult than it would appear.

THE CROSS TRAIL--See sketch No. 5. The cross trail offers another innovation owing to the strange trail we meet in our path for the first time, the so-called "decoy." Here, the guide will need a helper or assistant at the start, and to render the work easier for the dog a stranger is preferable. Naturally, the dog might be tempted to desert the trail if the cross trail or decoy carried the scent of a relative or friend. We must teach this gradually,

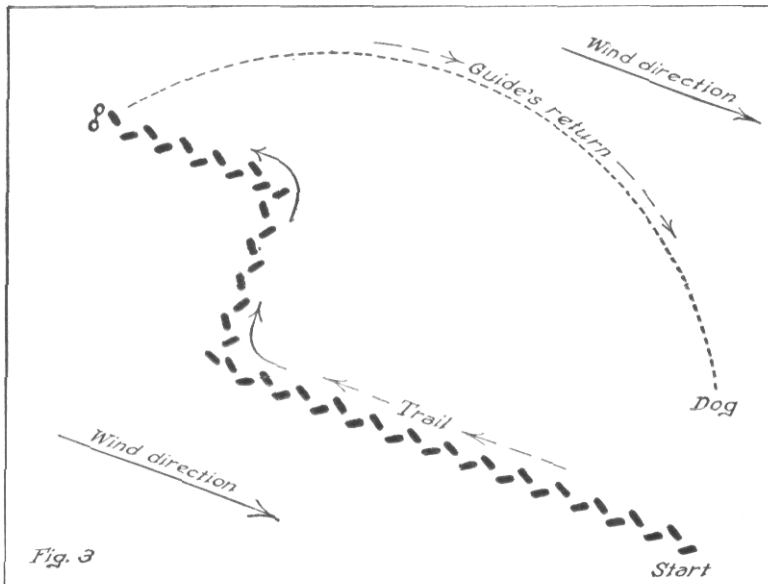


Fig. 3

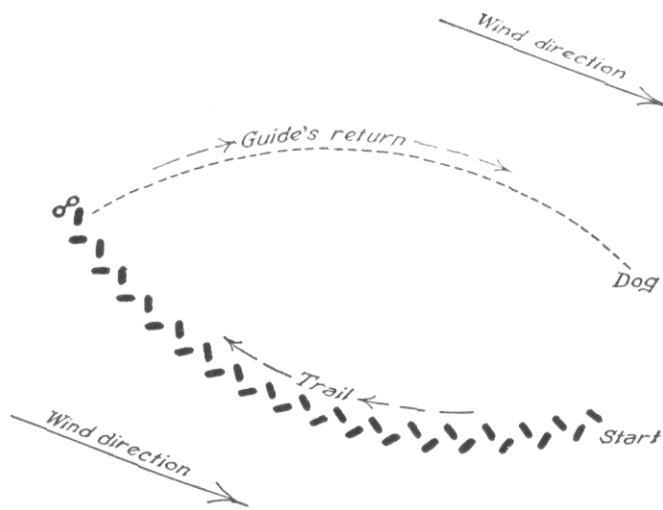


Fig. 4

helping the dog as much as possible and not making the work harder in the beginning.

The decoy, or the person who crosses the trail, will not need any experience at all: he should be instructed merely to cross the trail of the guide after it has been laid. We need a fresh trail, of course, on the one already laid. A plain crossing is probably the best, and will attract the dog's attention anyway. Upon reaching the decoy's trail, the dog must be encouraged to keep on going: he must understand that this decoy has nothing to do with the article he has to find. In the beginning, the trail of the decoy ought not to be too close to the starting point of the guide's own trail, but at least two-thirds along. Consult sketch No. 5.

THE MULTI-CROSS TRAIL-Sketch No. 6. With its two or more cross-trails, this trail will offer the same opportunity for the dog to make mistakes by losing the right way. Two decoys are now used. And again be sure to lay the decoy trails after the guide's own trail has been laid because we want fresh trails laid over the main trail.

THE PARALLEL TRAIL-See sketch No. 7. This is the last and final test which offers new difficulties especially when the decoy's trail is right after or along the guide's own trail. Should the dog become uncertain and change over to the decoy's trail, it will be found advisable to make the angle in the beginning not too close to or too

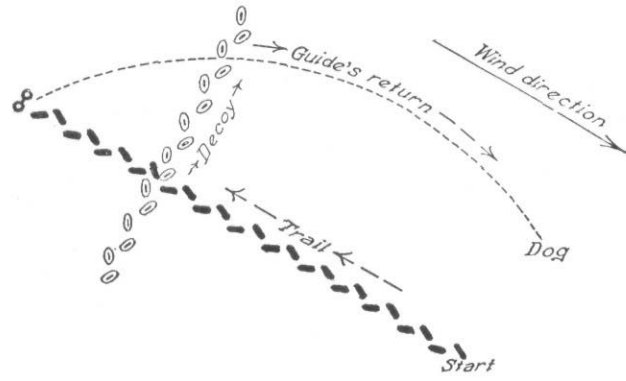


Fig. 5

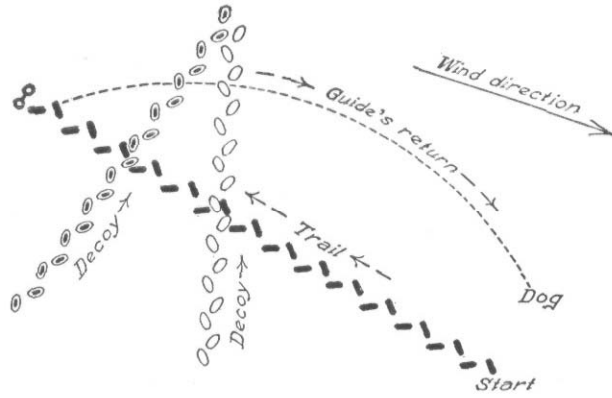


Fig. 6

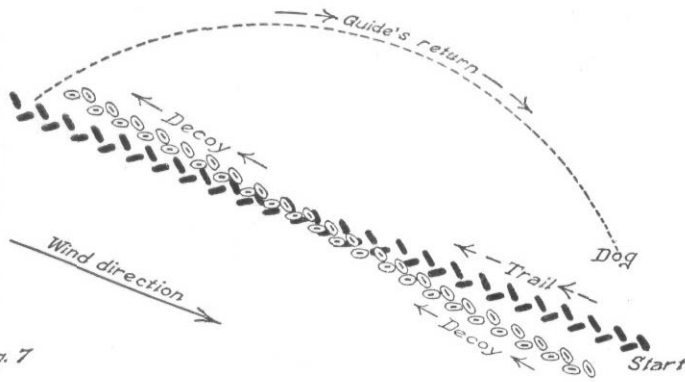


Fig. 7

absolutely parallel with the guide's trail. Close the angle gradually, however, following longer practise.

The guide will have noted that the distances employed are always the same. Purposely I have not mentioned any other distance because the dog is a new pupil in process of getting acquainted with the fundamentals. If the dog were to be sent a longer distance before finding the article, he might be bored to the extent of losing all interesting further trailing. This is the reason why the short distance is practised throughout until such time as the dog understands fully the seven fundamentals of trailing.

When the dog has advanced to the point of being able to work out the various trails with no difficulty, he may then proceed to the next step which includes working under different weather conditions, at other hours of the day, and even at night when he cannot see hence must use his sense of smell unassisted by his sense of sight.

Definitely, the real sport, the real joy begins when we work under varying conditions, depending upon the guide's interest and inventiveness in devising new trails after the fundamentals are mastered. A most intriguing departure, for example, is to let a longer period of time elapse between the laying of the trail and the working out. And night work especially was enjoyed by many of my former pupils. True, during the course of the work there were innumerable disappointments but with practise and

real seriousness of purpose these were in the end successfully overcome.

Trailing off the leash ought not to begin until the dog is actually trailing on a loose leash without pulling. In fact, taking the leash off too soon for free trailing is bound to result in what might be termed superficial trailing with the risk that the dog will be out of control.

While, as shown in the various sketches referred to, the dog can always observe the laying of the trail, it is necessary that he be removed later so that he cannot know its complete direction. He is forced then to use his nose to far greater extent than his eyes.

SEEKING BACK

The final lesson on the guide's own trail is **SEEKING BACK** and, naturally, none but good retrieving dogs will be equipped to perform it. The dog's task is to find, and retrieve, a lost article belonging to the guide, this while walking with the dog. The exercise is interesting because of the fact that it offers greater opportunity for practical use than any of the trailing exercises taught thus far.

I once lost in a field covered with high grass a bunch of keys which I had used for another dog as a substitute for a throwing chain. After an unsuccessful search I finally gave up, but returned that night to the same place **with** a dog **I** had in training. First crossing the field several times,

I gave the dog the scent and the command FIND IT. Only a few minutes had elapsed when the rattling of the keys told me the dog had found them.

In executing this lesson, the guide walks in a straight line with the dog on his left, and the dumbbell carried in his right hand. After proceeding for about ten yards, the dumbbell is dropped—not thrown away—quite obviously so the dog can see it, then the walk continued for ten yards more.

At this point the guide stops, shows the dog his empty hands, turns around, and with his right hand over the dog's nose, sends him back in the direction from which they came, with the encouraging command FIND IT. The guide should remain in his place, encouraging the dog to locate the dumbbell, and walking forward only in the event the dog makes no attempt to seek the object. Just as soon as he reaches the dumbbell, the guide issues the command FETCH whereupon the dog retrieves and delivers it in the correct manner.

Sometimes the dog makes no effort to go after the dumbbell or other object, because the guide has walked too long a distance in the beginning. The distance from the start to the point of dropping the object must then be shortened, as well as the distance from the dropping point to the end when the dog is sent back. Both distances may be lengthened gradually, and later decoys should be included in the lesson.

Other faults committed in the execution of this exercise include incorrect retrieving and movement of the guide. Retrieving, of course, must be strictly done as described in Lesson No. 12, while the guide should remain in the same place and the identical position from which the dog is sent back.

Subsequently, the SEEKING BACK may be perfected by "losing" the article without the dog's knowledge, without attracting his attention at all.

TRACKING A STRANGER'S TRAIL

The most serious exercise in trailing is to teach the dog to follow or work out the trail of strangers or persons unknown to him. It requires great skill, real understanding between master and dog and, last but not least, patience, patience and more patience! The guide who is not endowed with an enormous amount of this valuable quality had better not start in with this lesson, for only disappointment awaits him.

Dogs lacking in correct scent discrimination and in the trailing of the guide's trail, likewise those in the slightest degree uncertain in solving such problems, should at once be eliminated from the class. There is scant hope of making them even fairly good trailers, and there is danger too that all accomplishments learned up to now may be doomed to failure. The time and effort necessarily

expended on this lesson can never be worth while if the work is done superficially or in haste. Frequently it requires months and even years to develop satisfactory trailers, while perfect trailers are extremely limited in number.

Granted that the dog is really a trailer insofar as previous lessons are concerned, we can begin with the same procedure as that of the scent discrimination exercise except that this time about three strangers are brought in to lay down articles exactly as explained in the scent discrimination lesson. The distance is identical in the beginning.

The exercise, however, has three points of difference. First, the articles belong to strangers. Second, the trail is new while the dog is unfamiliar with the scent and has nothing to do with his guide. Third, the dog cannot have known the trail layer.

Study of the foregoing paragraph will disclose that, in this lesson, we expect more from the dog than in any other. Now, the "giving the scent" phase of the trailing exercise must have been practised carefully, and oh so thoroughly, otherwise the exercise now under consideration is foredoomed to failure. If the dog is not firmly grounded in it, then by all means go back to it rather than start off insufficiently prepared.

In this exercise, giving the scent is executed by taking the hat or the coat, preferably the part under the arms, and bringing it gently close to the dog's nose for about



'On the trail.'



one-half minute while the dog rests in the DOWN position. The guide must exert caution not to interfere with the dog's breathing, and not to stay in the wind. By so doing he will intensify his own scent and thus eliminate the scent of the article.

Other preferred articles for giving a dog the scent include old hats, socks or stockings, well worn coats which hold a good scent in the sleeves and around the underarms, or old shoes. Regarding these last named, the inside rather than the soles are best equipped to furnish scent. Underwear also is an excellent medium of scent if it has come in direct contact with the wearer's body.

Sending the dog on the trail is done in the same manner as in the SCENT DISCRIMINATION exercise on the guide's own trail, and praise and encouragement must be freely employed. The SCENT DISCRIMINATION has to be practised many times with the command FIND IT, and no specified time can be set for that exercise. The guide must use his own judgment. But let me say this, that too rapid progress will end in failure.

In no other lesson have so many warnings appeared. But for them I have good reason. All too many dogs which pass as "perfect" trailers are as unreliable as can be, and no one in reality can lay down a strict routine for trailing on a stranger's trail. Experts, so-called, who claim they can are in my opinion unworthy of the name trainers because this is one phase of dog training which cannot be

taught by the written word, or by personal explanation, unassisted. I can only say that the procedure must be evolved from within the trainer, that it depends upon his creative ability and initiative.

TRAILING FOR PERSONS

Up to now articles alone have been the objects for trailing. Let us turn to the trailing of people. It constitutes another important factor in the trailing exercise, its execution similar to the SCENT DISCRIMINATION.

When we trail human beings we must employ different commands without confusing the dog, the best of these being probably FORWARD-FIND IT given in the same tone of voice as that used in previous lessons.

The laying of the trail is identical with laying the guide's own trail. First, the dog sees the trail laid. Later, though, he is left somewhere else so he cannot watch the trail layer, and finally the same method is utilized to send him out on the trail after he has received the scent.

The innumerable successes I have enjoyed with my dogs I attribute to an original little trick which I will disclose to the public here for the first time. I have however, given it upon request to many well known guides of international reputation.

When I practise TRAILING FOR PEOPLE, I first teach the dog to SPEAK ON COMMAND and the mo-

ment he is schooled in that, I teach him the trailing of my own scent, but I do not permit him to retrieve the article. Instead, he must ANNOUNCE his find by BARKING. He sits in front of the article and barks until I arrive. He



"Found . . ."

is then praised and given the command FETCH. Even when I remain in front of the article, I let him retrieve it. Now to the secret! . . . When I employ a stranger as trail layer, I request him to remain at the end of the trail in lying down position! After the dog has been sent on the trail, and has worked it out, he finds at the trail's end, to his great surprise, a stranger. And because of his surprise

he will BARK. He has found something he cannot retrieve; more, he has found something absolutely new to him, and that is, the *stranger is wearing a coat of mine!* The scent is familiar, but the wearer is a stranger and so in his consternation, he does the only thing a dog can do—he barks! In all my practise I have never had one single dog fail to act in that way. High praise, of course, is his reward for barking.

Just one final thought before leaving this lesson: Try to avoid any command similar in sound to commands used in other lessons or exercises, especially in trailing. Some novices have been inclined of late to use the command "seek" which in my opinion is inadvisable. The dog does not know what it means; he can in fact be trained to any word at all. Suppose the word were "chocolate" or "sauerkraut"; to him the meaning would still be obscure. The word "seek" sounds quite too much like SIT and can, in a pinch, be pronounced the same.

Recently I had at my training field a visitor who was quite proud that his dog had been trained by an amateur under the command "seek," but the moment the command was given, the dog went into sitting position! This guide attempted to persuade me that the dog has first to go through all the other obedience exercises on the field before he can be used for trailing, and that then he will readily understand what "seek" means! A typical example, this, of the mechanical, routine worker, the result

of machine-like training but, of a certainty, not a trained dog destined to be companion and friend.

SPEAKING ON COMMAND (BARKING)

Occasionally there comes a time when it is helpful to have a dog bark on command. To teach any dog this little trick requires only a small amount of observation in order to determine when he barks on his own initiative. Practically every dog barks at the sound of the doorbell. Or possibly, if he is on leash, when his food is put down out of reach, he will express impatience by barking.

These and countless other habits must be observed by the guide who can take advantage of them in training him to bark on command. In this exercise, the guide issues the command SPEAK, and gives the usual words of praise when the dog responds. The command should be accompanied by a sign, such as swaying the forefinger of the right hand to the right and left.

Shortly, he will associate the sign and the command and will bark without the stimulus of the doorbell, his food dish, etc. By means of just a little practise we can so train him that he will bark not only in the SIT, DOWN, STAY, HEEL and all other desired positions, but at any time and in any place we wish him to do so.

At the command OUT, he should cease at once, the rattling of the throwing chain serving as a warning in case

he does not heed. If the warning is ignored and still he keeps on barking, then the chainette is thrown at him with the command OUT. Again, never forget to praise him when he executes the command SPEAK by barking.

POSING

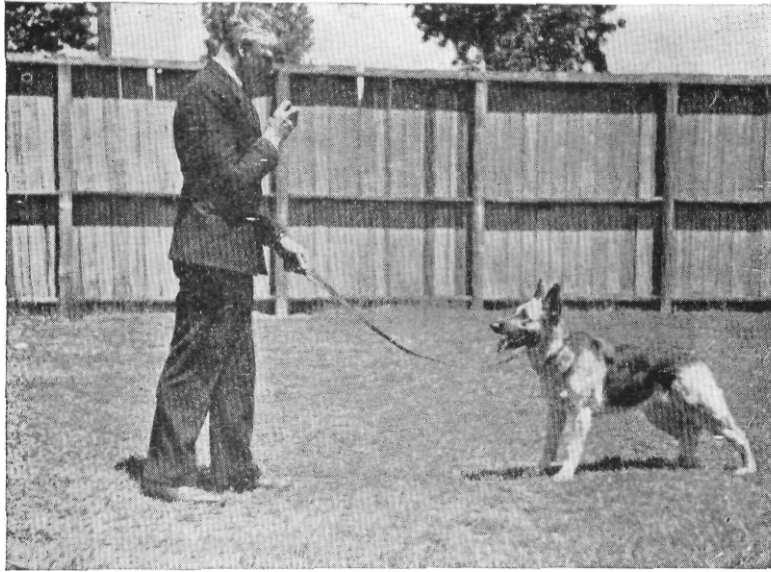
For those owners who are interested in taking pictures of their dogs, either at home or when participating in dog shows, it is quite important that they be taught to pose.

Now, the dog has learned the meaning of the command STAY which signifies that he is to remain just where he is when the command is issued. Surely, it would confuse him to employ another command, so again we use STAY for instruction in POSING.

To make the dog pose in standing position, as for example in dog shows, we walk along with him and step suddenly in front of him (facing him) coincidentally issuing the command STAY. Upon hearing this order the dog is bewildered because he expects his guide to be right beside him. But, it is easily seen that, to stand beside him, might cause him to go into the sitting position which is what we want most to avoid. This is the reason, then, why we stand directly in front and facing him.

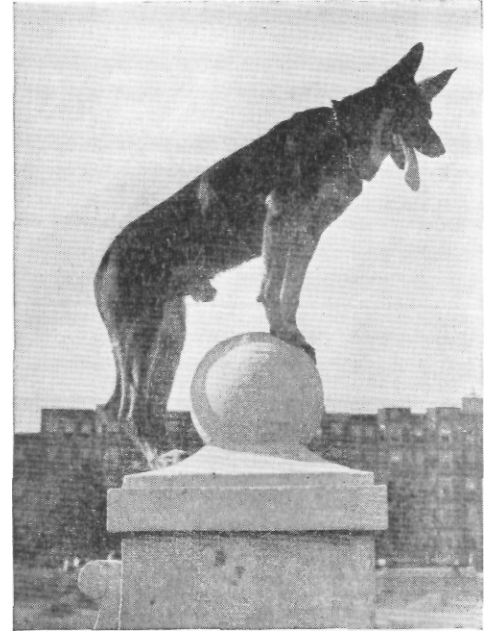
If he makes any attempt to sit, we lift him up with the right hand under his body, thus bringing him to standing position, all the while praising him and repeating the

command STAY. Here too, as advised earlier, the guide must be careful not to change the position of his feet. After a few repetitions, the dog will remain in the desired position. When he "stays" he may be brought into the position required in dog show competition.



Stepping suddenly in front of the dog, with the command Stay, will induce him to remain standing. He will not Sit because the guide is not at his side.

It will be observed that the skilled handler of dogs, in organized competition at shows, invariably stands in front of his dog, never beside him, except perhaps in the case of certain breeds which need special assistance from the handler to bring out certain pointy as *stressed* in the stand-



The dog trained to the command Stay will hold the position he happens to take at the moment he hears the order. This provides ample opportunity for posing a dog in the show ring and for the taking of photographs.

ard. Therefore the practise of this exercise is advisable because a good dog so often can spoil his chances of taking a prize in the show ring when he is unmanageable. And that is exactly what constitutes "bad ring manners" or "lack of ring manners" which count against a dog in bench show competition.

Training of the sort is likewise of great benefit in picture taking. In fact every photographer will testify that dogs and children are trying and difficult subjects before the camera. But once trained to pose they can be stood in any desired place, as well as in the best available light. All of my own dogs are so trained that I can keep them in any position at all in order to obtain satisfactory snapshots.

GUN SHYNESS

Not infrequently do I receive requests for advice on the best method of training dogs to be "gun-sure." These requests emanate for the most part from rural districts where house dogs have grown nervous throughout the hunting season.

In cases of the kind, we have to investigate so as to determine whether the condition is merely of occasional occurrence hence will prove temporary, as during the hunting season, or whether it is a chronic, nervous condition and the dog timid, even continuously shy. Conditions of the latter type require medical treatment by the

veterinarian, usually in the form of high vitamin administration.

Temporary shyness can be overcome by acquainting the dog systematically with the sound of gunfire. Let me explain the system I have used successfully with dogs brought to me on account of just such a fault.

An extremely good retriever in water and on land was at times quite gunshy. The owner could advance no explanation as to the cause. I took the dog in for training and, while in process of getting acquainted with him, I discovered that he was a very good feeder. This clue, then, furnished the key to the corrective system used. One day, I skipped the dog's afternoon meal, after which he kept me awake that night by continued howling for his dinner. Next morning I removed him from his stall into his run where his food was waiting for him.

At a distance of about 200 yards, I posted my helper with a gun where he would be invisible to the dog. On the instant the dog jumped for his dish, I signalled the assistant to fire. Straightway the dog disappeared to the farthest available corner, forgetting food and appetite! From an adjoining window on the second floor, I watched developments.

Shortly the dog approached his food again, but as soon as he started to eat it, he heard another shot. Of course the noise once more drove him into the corner. Again the performance was repeated. But on each succeeding oc-

casation, less time intervened between the sound of the shot and the dog's next trip to the food dish. In fact, he was discovering that the shot meant no danger, and, too, hunger drove him on until such time as he concluded that gunfire actually meant nothing at all. Before I could come down from the second floor, his dish was empty! Then lavish praise from me convinced him that no one intended him the slightest harm. That same day, at the usual feeding time, the assistant with the gun was placed within sight, and when the shot rang out, the dog merely looked around but went right on eating. A few days more, and nothing remained capable of disturbing him.

The owner wrote me later that this dog is now a first class hunter, with a habit of running to the kitchen for food whenever he hears a shot or an automobile backfire. However, as the benefit derived from the training so far overbalanced this small disadvantage, the owner was perfectly satisfied.

An experience of this type may be of assistance to those beset by a similar situation, and the lesson can of course be utilized with like results. Although I have stated that I never train a dog through his skin, by whipping, or through his stomach, by starving, this somewhat exceptional case could not possibly weaken the dog because no manual or physical work of his is connected with it.

REFUSING FOOD FROM STRANGERS

Although REFUSING FOOD FROM A STRANGER is a lesson requiring several special exercises, it is of prime value for practical use. Unfortunately, obedience test rules do not mention it at all. But in my opinion it is a needed lesson if for no other purpose than the annoying habit, at home, and perhaps in restaurants or other public places, of seeing a dog go from table to table, from guest to guest, begging food.

To break a dog of the habit of accepting food involves a little diplomacy with one's friends. Tell them for instance, that you do not doubt their friendliness toward the dog, but that you would appreciate it more if they would refrain from offering him anything.

If the dog has already formed the habit, he can be cured without too much trouble. Induce a stranger to offer the dog a piece of meat with his LEFT hand. The right hand must be ready for action. The moment the dog snaps at the meat, down comes the right hand to give the dog a good slap on the muzzle. At such a sudden, a really surprising move, the dog will usually drop the meat and thereafter be quite skeptical of food offers in future.

Practise the above a few times on different days, then proceed to offer the food with the right hand! And the guide will see, as explained earlier in this book, that the dog respects the right hand as the punishing hand. And

here, warning must be inserted that under no circumstances should the guide attempt to punish the dog or to practise this with his own dog! For surely it would be destined to shake the latter's confidence in his master. Strangers only may practise this exercise.

If it does not work, the fault lies with the stranger himself. He is either too slow in delivering the slap on the muzzle, or he gives merely a light slap that the dog considers a playful pat.

THE CORRECTION OF BAD HABITS

The innumerable requests received from dog owners asking about the best method of correcting bad habits have prompted me to explain my experiences along this line, in the hope that they may prove of some definite advantage to all concerned.

CHASING AUTOMOBILES, BICYCLES, ETC.

Many a dog has paid with his life for the dangerous habit of chasing everything that moves. There is no real trick in curing this habit quickly, only a little patience and conscientious work will do it.

Several dog owners brought to me pets which they claimed had acquired the auto chasing habit, but from the moment I began systematic training as described in Lessons 1—12, I had not the slightest trouble with them. This success I attribute especially to HEELING ON THE LEASH because, whenever I cross the street, regardless of whether or not an automobile is approaching, I invariably stop and induce the dog to take the SIT position. When he has executed this correctly, I then proceed to cross the thoroughfare.

After a little practise, the dog will stop as soon as he reaches the curb even without the leash or in HEELING FREE. Bolting is nothing more than a lack of obedience, because the dog has been given the command HEEL and therefore he must HEEL. If he tries to run away, even after an automobile, it is a sign that he does not understand the command in which case the heeling will have to be practised more in places where there is the necessary temptation of passing cars.

The same applies to the chasing of bicycles. Practise in the face of temptation is the only cure for this habit and if punishment is unavoidable, get the chainette into action the moment the dog shows the slightest sign of disobedience by bolting after bicycles, cars, etc.

For some hunting dogs I have utilized a special device of my own invention, a bunch of small chains to which, at the end of each chain, a small ball of lead is attached. Usually five chains will do the trick. The bundle is fastened to the collar as soon as the dog starts running without command, the balls hitting his legs and forcing him to stop to avoid self-inflicted punishment. My pupils have reported that this works even for dogs that chase cars and bicycles.

Also, I have cured dogs of chasing chickens, cows, goats and cats by fastening the long leash to the training collar, after which I tempt the dog by the sight of any one of these animals. In such cases, it is necessary that

every command be avoided, but the moment the dog makes the attempt to chase, a sharp NO is given, nothing else. As a rule the dog will ignore the order and rush right up to the animal, but the chase ends suddenly in a double somersault because the end of the long leash in the guide's hand stops the culprit as soon as he reaches the end of the rope. Perhaps this appears a trifle drastic. However, it has never had any bad effect on the dog for the simple reason that the moment he is called to HEEL, he is praised even though he comes with his tail between his legs.

THE STEALING OF FOOD

Many are the requests that come to me about correcting the bad habit of stealing. Only recently I received word that a large dog had "beat the family to it" by stealing a full-sized turkey prepared and ready for serving. Despite the fact that the dog was provided regularly with the best obtainable food, he took every advantage to steal which presented itself. He stole only when left alone, and as he was not alone very often, he could not have resorted to stealing on the basis of loneliness.

Unfortunately, the dog's master did the worst possible thing. He called the culprit to him and administered a beating with the inevitable result: the dog refused to come for several days, though up to then he had been a most obedient animal.

It is natural that the dog should consider everything within reach as his property, whether it be real estate or things edible. The real estate of course is his to guard; the food, his to eat.

Now to break a dog of stealing food is not as difficult as it appears; the most successful method, I have found, is leading into temptation. On the table I place a good sized piece of fine, juicy steak attached, with several strands of string, to three, four or five tin cans. The meat I place so that it is bound to attract the dog's attention when he is left alone. Then I leave the room, close the door and remain outside awaiting events. In just a few minutes I hear the inevitable clatter of falling tin cans! Now is the time for action. Usually the dog is so concerned by the sudden racket that he loses all appetite for the steak, and the sight of his irate master causes him to look for the farthest corner he can reach. Here is an opportunity to use a stick or a whip, but not to beat him!

Go to the dog. Do not call him to you. In your left hand, hold the meat and command DOWN. Drop the meat in front of the dog, then grab him by the collar so he cannot run away. Now go ahead with the beating, striking the ground, never the dog, with the whip close beside him, several times, as you say SHAME in a disgusted voice. Then release him, and once released, all is over.

Repeat this the next day, and we will notice that a

longer time elapses before the noise of the "crime" becomes audible, if there is to be any noise at all. As a rule it requires only one or two experiences of this kind to keep a dog strictly away from the bait.

PICKING UP FOOD FOUND ON THE GROUND

One of the most deplorable faults a dog can develop is the picking up of food found on the ground. Because of it, many dogs are the victims of poisoning, and many veterinary bills result from an otherwise unaccountable "stomach trouble." Sometimes, too, vets are wrongly blamed for not curing a dog because the origin of the gastric disturbance is unknown. Uncounted cases of stomach upset are brought on by picking up food that is in bad condition.

Although it is not my intention to offer medical or feeding advice in this book, still I will go so far as to suggest that ill balanced feeding is the main reason why the dog often looks around him for something different. A dog needs, above all things, variety—he would not enjoy eating turkey every day any more than you or I.

Picking up food that has been left lying about is usually caused by the lack of certain vitamins or necessary elements in the dog's diet. So instinctively he attempts to find the missing elements for himself by taking such food

as he finds available. Unfortunately, his sense of smell is of great assistance to him in the quest for discarded and undesirable provender.

The only way to prevent trouble of this kind is to keep the dog under constant control, under continuous observation. No dog should ever be let out to shift for himself. He may be killed or injured by fast moving vehicles; he can come in contact with sick dogs, and he can get into fights with other dogs. Moreover, many a friendly dog has been stolen because, through a lack of control, the owner actually invites dog thieves to do their dirty work.

Breaking the PICKING UP FOOD habit is connected with the usual temptation method. The dog must be caught in the act, and punished by means of the throwing chain. And when he has already experienced the discomfort caused by the chain, he will need only to hear its rattle to realize the punishment in store in case he misbehaves.

Here I would like to give credit to one of my pupils who invented a very ingenious device to keep his dog from investigating garbage cans. Over the cover of the can and invisible to the dog, he connected a few throwing chains, so that the moment the dog managed to uncover the can, the chains came clattering down to his great surprise. As a result, this dog makes a wide detour whenever he sights a garbage receiver. A little careful thinking will lead to many original methods of breaking dogs of bad

habits like the one with which this lesson is primarily concerned.

CONTINUOUS BARKING

While it is a sign of obedience when the dog **BARKS ON COMMAND**, still the dog which barks continuously without stopping is a nuisance to the neighbors and even to his owner. Continued barking, which of course, constitutes disobedience, is the result of giving a dog too much chance to do as he likes.

Observe a dog of this character and in him you will find a disinclination toward obedience in other exercises: observe the owner of such a dog and you will find laxity and even neglect. The dog always knows with whom he deals. He knows exactly who will let him "get away with it." Just a little hardening of the heart will serve to show him who is boss and every dog, even the most deplorably spoiled, will very soon realize that his master says what he means and means what he says when he issues the command **OUT** and hurls the throwing chain in cases of continued disobedience.

And how intensely annoying it is when, at the ring of the bell, the dog rushes to the door and makes conversation with the visitor impossible. This is the time for the command **DOWN-STAY**, the correct execution of which must be enforced even with the help of the throwing chain.

Dogs left alone for any length of time in the house often develop barking or howling habits to the discomfort of the neighbors. A dog must learn to remain in the house by gradually extended periods of absence on the part of the owner. In the great majority of cases, the howling is caused by loneliness especially in dogs that love companionship, and, it is perhaps needless to add, such howling is answered by other dogs, innocent of the start of the noise but nevertheless punished in the end for the sins of another. If only a neighbor would throw a stone, or a throwing chain against the house occupied by the first barking dog, the trouble would be stopped to the satisfaction of the neighbor, the owner and the dog.

SEPARATING FIGHTING DOGS

When two or more dogs accidentally get into a fight, we can see the absolute helplessness of the owner who tries to separate the battlers by hitting or kicking them. If this proves unsuccessful, as it usually does, attempts are made to get hold of the dogs by their collars in order to pull them apart. This too avails nothing more than that the owner, perhaps more than one owner, is bitten sometimes even by their own dogs.

Methods of the sort are totally wrong. It must be realized, first and foremost, that a dog imbued with the excitement of battle, has only the destruction of his enemy

in mind; that all commands, training rules, and love of master are over-ruled by this passion. Experts have advised sprinkling a solution of ammonia over the fighters' noses; they have suggested frightening the dogs with water! I have never seen dogs separated in this particular way because I know of no one who carries such solutions around with him.

There is just one way, to my knowledge, to separate fighting dogs and that is to take hold of the tail or the hindlegs and pull! As, ordinarily, it takes some time before dogs have a mouthful hold on each other, most of them can be separated in this manner without danger to dogs or master. As soon as the dog, even when in the highest pitch of excitement, feels some movement at his hindquarters, he will turn around to see what goes on there. He loses his hold on his opponent and the separation is effected. Provided the owner of the other dog is familiar with the same method, no serious harm will be done. And the spirit of sport should rule at once by forgetting the incident when it happens on the training field.

ATTACK AND PROTECTION

Every conscientious trainer will refuse to train dogs for attack and protection if he is not familiar with a dog's environment. No honorable trainer can ever be blamed for making such a decision, because the responsibility is too great and the work so many sided that correct training requires time for studying not only the dog's character and behavior but that of the owner as well. Great damage may result with a dog trained in this work, in the event that the owner loses control over the dog. ATTACK work is highly dangerous, and a dog trained for it, in the hands of an unskilled owner, is just as bad as a loaded gun in the hands of a child!

It seems as though the laws of this country militate against the dog owner regardless of whether the damage done by the dog is the fault of the dog, the owner or the one bitten by the dog. To be specific, the law says: "Every dog owner is responsible for damage done by a dog regardless whether intentionally or unintentionally." All too few cases are known wherein the dog owner has received a favorable judgment before a court. Still, I must mention one case in which I was involved and in which justice was done.



'Stick 'em up.'



Dog attacks the right arm.



Attack without command in the absence of the guide.



Former method of Attack and protection. Many dogs were used too early, without being under control and lacking in obedience.

Modern attack and protection work eliminates the out-moded "armor-suit" of the "criminal," and dogs are trained to attack the right arm which is especially protected.

At midnight on one New Year's eve during the prohibition era, I was attacked by three intoxicated men in Boston. Being on my way home I had my Bodo with me, but he happened to be investigating some hydrant about one hundred feet away. Like a true "blitzkrieg," he went into action without command, and although he had been out of practise in attack work for many years, in a fraction of a second he brought those three men to the ground. He meant business and no mistake as shown by the fact that two of the culprits needed a ride in an ambulance and subsequent hospital treatment.

Fortunately Bodo was well known to the police as a great lover and protector of children, and eleven eye witnesses, combined with this excellent reputation, earned only praise for him from the judge at the court session in Roxbury, Massachusetts, when the complaint against him was dismissed on account of self defense.

To this day I have kept the summons of this case in my files as a reminder that there is justice where justice is needed, and that even apparently hardened judges appreciate a trained dog.

Now beside the danger connected with a protection-trained dog, all such training is expensive. At least two persons are required, the trainer and an assistant who must assume the role of criminal. And both must be highly skilled because the old fashioned system of using heavily padded suits for the criminal was outmoded long ago and



COMPANION" DOG trials 1928 to 1935 were held every year until 1936 when the American Kennel Club recognized Obedience Tests. The author's school awarded the qualifying dogs these diplomas, the "CD" title and trophies. The rules were similar to the present AKC rules and regulations except that more exercises including tracking and trailing were required for the "CD" title.

is used now by only a few amateur trainers. It is true, too, that the dog trained with this type of suit will attack without reason everyone wearing a similar coat.

Moreover, few dogs are really suited to this kind of work. In this country we want the COMPANION dog, not the attacker. Protection trained dogs imported from Europe some years ago left in the public mind an unfavorable impression against one particular breed, and this aversion still has not been wholly overcome.

For all the reasons above stated, credit must be given to trainers who refuse to undertake ATTACK-PROTECTION training. They realize, apparently, that there are at the present time many unskilled trainers who have entered the sport for commercial reasons alone; that they have enjoyed very little experience, and that in consequence more harm than good will be done by encouragement of such training work.

WAR DOG TRAINING for the COMBAT ZONES

*Originated and Introduced to the
U. S. Army and Marine Corps*

by

HANS TOSSUTTI

MESSENGER DOGS

used only in U. S. Army and Marine Corps

Dog in this chapter: Ch. Warrior Wolf of Freeport
Owner: Mr. and Mrs. G. Horn-Wrentham, Mass.

RED CROSS or CASUALTY DOGS

Method K. Most, Revised for U. S. Army by H. Tossutti

Dog in this chapter: Ch. Cito of Grafmar
Owner: Mr. and Mrs. G. Horn-Wrentham, Mass.

TRAINING CAMPS:

Fort Washington, Va., Camp Ritchie, Md., Front Royal, Va.
Marine Base, Camp Le Jeune, New River, N. C.

COURIER AND MESSAGE CARRIER DOGS

It is safe to say that the average man or woman has no conception of the extremely important part played by the dog in war.

For generations we have called the dog the friend of man without thinking very deeply, perhaps, just what that friendship entails. In war it means going with man into the turmoil of battle, without regard to danger, suffering, freezing cold and burning heat simply because, having elected to work with man, he refuses to desert him, come what may.

It is easy enough to claim that the dog does these things because he has no imagination and cannot therefore count the cost of his sacrifice. But is that quite fair? Perhaps not. So rather than question the source of his bravery, let us give credit where credit is due for a measure of selfless devotion to man's cause unmatched by that of any soldier of the battlefield.

Consider the courier or message-carrier dog. To name just a few of his duties, he transports pigeons, draws telephone wires, delivers ammunition to the front, and carries myriad small articles necessary to the conduct of the war.

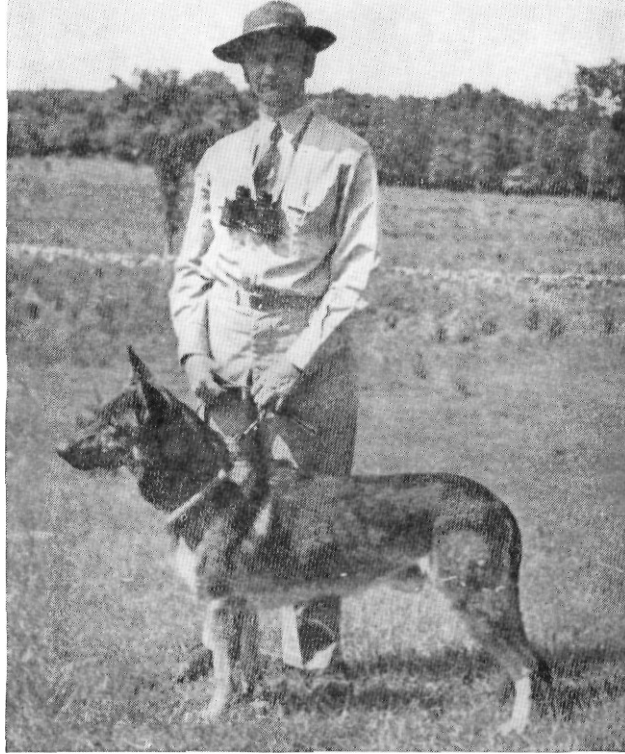
And he performs these services with a precision that is amazing.

Training for work of this type must be painstakingly done for mistakes would be costly; and it includes as a vital cog in the wheel, the selection of trainers particularly well fitted for handling highly intelligent dogs. The ideal trainer is a soldier who regards dogs with affection but not sentimentalism; in other words, a man who knows how, by kindly methods, to get the utmost **in** performance from his canine pupils. More, as these trainers work in teams, they must be men who can get along well with each other.

As distinctly opposed to other types of training, a courier dog work demands the assignment of two guides to each dog. At first—the two men and the dog—start by spending considerable time together because it is essential that each learn as much as possible of the other's personality, temperament and reaction to various situations.

The initial step, and a highly important one, is for both guides to gain the confidence of the dog. This is the foundation stone upon which is built proficiency in the exercises to come. Let the guides take turns in reviewing with the dog the fundamental exercises of heeling on and off leash, sitting, stopping on command, etc., occupying two or three 30-minute periods per day for several days. And bear in mind that the guides must work *as a team*, by acquiring the habit of issuing commands identical as

regards speech and gesture. Then, after the dog has been under perfect control of the two guides for at least two weeks, he may proceed with his real courier education.



The Messenger (Courier) Dog is equipped with a waterproof container in which the message is inserted and carried by the dog.

The guides are stationed in an open field about twenty feet apart. The dog remains with one guide who plays with him for a few moments. The guide then orders the

dog to the sit position and, as he watches him, rolls into a long, cylindrical shape a large white handkerchief to be used as a collar. This the guide fastens around the



The Homing-Pigeon Carrier Dog carries two pigeons with him on his runs for messages for long distances, behind the battle lines.

dog's neck. With the sharp command REPORT, he points with his right hand in the direction of the other guide twenty feet away.

(By means of the handkerchief, we play upon the dog's natural desire to please. The handkerchief differs markedly from all other appurtenances with which the dog has been trained to work. Large, flashy, eye-arresting, it points up this exercise in his mind. It is something entirely new which *he* "will want to carry in order to please his master.)

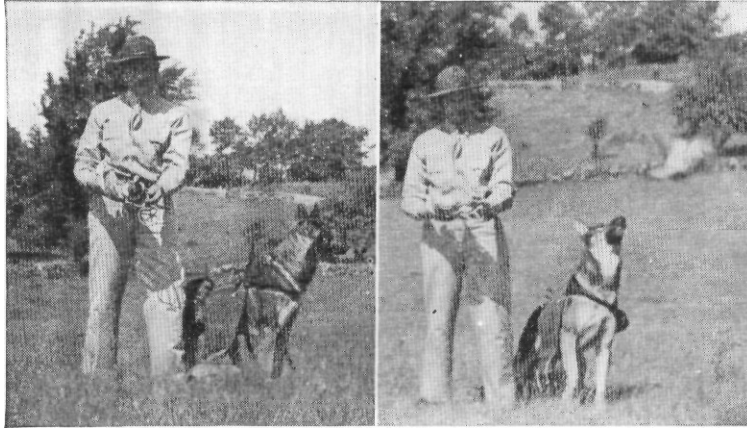
At first the dog will not understand. Though he has heard the order, he may do nothing but sit exactly as before. He may even attempt to tear off the strange collar, but this the guide must be quick to prevent. The dog's natural indecision at this point must be anticipated and corrected by the other guide who, immediately upon hearing his confederate order REPORT, calls the dog to him. Since the dog is equally familiar with the other guide, he will not hesitate to respond.

He starts out in the direction of the second guide, even as the first guide continues to issue the command REPORT interspersed with words of praise and encouragement. This tends to speed the dog on his way and when he reaches the second guide he should assume the sit position.

The second guide then praises the dog, meanwhile using rather spectacular gestures as he unties the handkerchief from the dog's neck. To relieve any possible tension, the guide plays with the dog for just a moment before ordering him again to the sitting position. Now he goes through once more the procedure of his team-mate in fastening a handkerchief on the dog's neck. But, the same handkerchief is *not* used for the return trip. Each guide in this exercise uses his own.

Repeated several times the first day, the lesson is practiced daily thereafter, with the distance gradually in-

creased until the guides are more than one hundred feet apart. Up to this time, the two guides have remained within sight of each other. However, as soon as the dog understands fully his mission in this exercise; that is, when



HOMING-PIGEON CARRIERS IN ACTION

Left—the basket containing the pigeon, carried by the dog, is opened.
Right—the pigeon is released and the dog watches it as it flies away.

he knows that he must proceed upon command directly from the dispatching guide to the receiving guide, then the call from the second or receiving guide may be eliminated and the trip made only under the stimulus of the command REPORT.

We have dealt up to now with the very simplest form of the exercise under consideration. When the rudiments have been mastered, we proceed to make the exercise more

difficult by adding an obstacle. Both guides walk along with the dog. Suddenly Guide A leaves, goes off about fifty yards or so and hides behind a house, a haystack, a trench or some such obstacle. The dog is then dispatched to find Guide A.

It cannot be emphasized too highly that the same obstacle should never be used twice in succession, else the dog will expect to go to that place in anticipation of finding the guide in that particular spot. A wide variety of obstacles must be utilized at this point in the training so that no obstacle,—house, barn, haystack or whatever—becomes familiar.

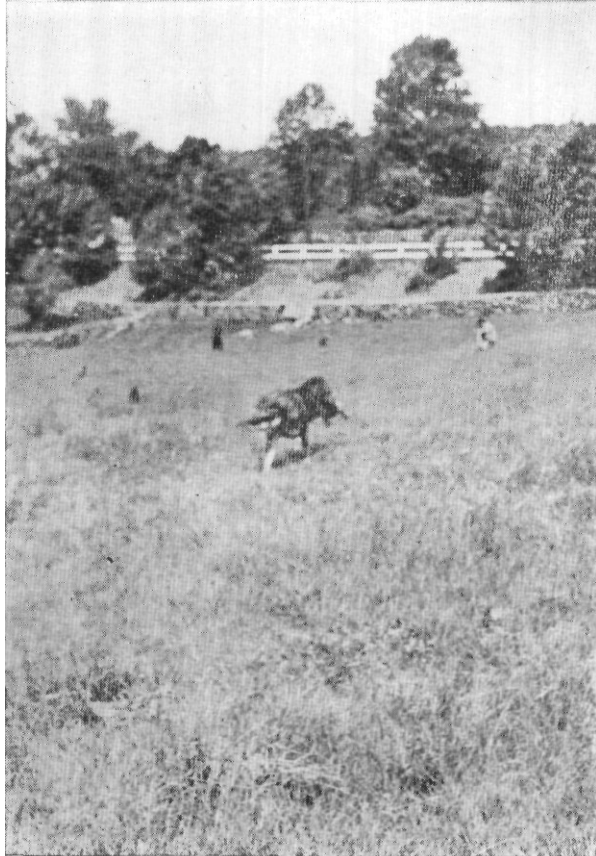
The dog's sole attention must be directed to contact with the second guide; that is all that concerns him. He must find the other guide, even though he cannot see him when he starts out, and even though in order to find him he must circumvent buildings or obstructions of any kind, size or shape.

And, to prevent confusion in the dog's mind, the distance from the dispatching guide to the obstacle or obstruction should not be too great at first, otherwise the dog may grow uncertain and be tempted to return without having reached his objective.

When this much of the exercise has been perfected, the distance is increased and another obstacle added. The dog must now learn to pass two houses in order to find

COURIER AND MESSAGE CARRIER DOGS 223

the missing guide. Gradually the exercise is elaborated by an increase in the number and variety of the obstacles, and an increase in the distance also, until finally the dog locates the guide a mile or more away.



The Messenger Dog with his high speed is a difficult target.

As soon as this much has been accomplished, a change is made to the dog's regular collar, an ordinary collar with an aluminum or similar container used to keep messages safe from dampness, dirt and possible loss.

Throughout the entire period, the three members of the unit—the two guides and the dog—have been working constantly together with one purpose: to fix on the dog's mind the idea that he must find the missing master. Often conditions on the field of battle render team work impossible, and guides are frequently separated. But if the dog knows what is wanted of him, he should be able to locate the missing master even at great distance, without undue difficulty, when sent in a given direction.

A somewhat different, and withal useful development of the exercise is as follows: Guide A hides a short distance away. The dog does not know where he is for he has not seen him go. Guide B gives the usual command and sign—REPORT, accompanied by the raised right arm and pointing hand—at the same time walking a few steps in the direction the dog is to proceed.

Should the dog show reluctance, as he may, to take the indicated direction, Guide B must encourage him forward by following slowly, though at the same time trying to increase the distance between the dog and himself. Gradually the dog will assume the lead, farther and farther in advance of Guide B. In any case, the dog should read'

Guide A before Guide B reaches him, despite the fact that in order to encourage him the latter may have had to traverse the entire distance. When the dog finally reaches Guide A he will naturally jump up on him to express his joy. Guide A must respond in kind by showing just as great delight in the dog as the dog has shown in him. In this slight variation of the exercise also the distance is gradually increased up to about one mile.

Training directions for the return trip are unnecessary. Both guides have been working constantly with the dog: each has taken his turn in the intricacies of all procedures. Consequently the dog's training will result in this single idea: That when he is sent in a given direction, he must find one of his masters. Since he works equally well with both, he will respond to REPORT even from the master he has just reached with a message.

However, care may well be taken not to send the dog back immediately. Don't let him get the notion that he is not wanted; that he is being, shall we say, chased back? He must be taught by word and gesture that the master he is sent to find is as happy to see him as he is to see the master. In fact, a tangible reward for finding is a good thing. Let the receiving guide offer a piece of meat or other tidbit in recognition of the dog's successful journey.

The routes used for training purposes, and the type of

terrain also over which the dog travels must be changed as frequently as possible, lest a certain kind of route become fixed in the dog's mind as associated with this exercise. This is of especial importance in modern warfare



Receiving the Dog.

with its absence of entrenchments and its constant mobility.

Since the primary object of the training we have just discussed is to present a pattern of behavior for the dog on the battlefield, the noise and confusion of actual warfare should be simulated. Gunfire, cannon shots, the

sound of airplanes, the roar of tanks, all are valuable accompaniments to training. The smells of battle too should be present—gun smoke, gasoline fumes, blood. Useless indeed would be a type of training given only amid quiet



Dispatching the dog in a given direction. The command: REPORT.

surroundings when the training was designed for actual combat.

RED CROSS OR CASUALTY DOGS

Dogs are trained for Red Cross work for the purpose of aiding the stretcher bearers to locate wounded combatants after and, if circumstances permit, during the battle. Searching in a given direction, the dogs are taught to report to their guides every person found in a sitting or lying-down position. Walking and standing persons must be ignored, sentries, patrols and marching groups included. Countless injured soldiers, seeking shelter and protection, find hiding places which cannot be reached or possibly are overlooked by patrolling searchers. It is easy to realize, then, how many lives are saved when dogs, with their keen scent and ability to find, are attached to Red Cross units.

Training of this type will require approximately three months, depending somewhat of course upon the character of the dog and the skill of the guide. Probably best suited to the work are German Shepherd Dogs and practically all medium-sized dogs of sound character. Of prime benefit, too, are good retrievers; dogs that are gun-sure and not nervous. Inasmuch as in this activity the dogs come in contact with so many people, vicious dogs

cannot possibly be used; also, continuous barkers and dogs prone to fight must be considered unsuitable.

The guides, no less than the dogs themselves, must be of even temper and perfect emotional control at all times; and due to the fact that guides all have their own little mannerisms and special methods of giving commands and signs, they should not change dogs once they have begun to train them. The same dog must remain the especial responsibility of the same guide throughout the period of preparation for this schooling. This precaution looms particularly important in view of the large number of signs and commands used—they outnumber those of any related form of training.

PREPARATORY WORK

As a preliminary to Red Cross training, the various exercises comprising basic obedience work must be gone through; more, they must be repeated more often than when training for police work, for attack and protection, sentry or messenger dog duties.

The review of those exercises which are to be considered preparatory to Red Cross training include:

1—HEELING on and off the leash. Practice with the dog off the leash is especially important, not however that type of heeling free that may have been previously designed for show purposes. By this I mean that it is un-

necessary for the dog to stick too closely to the guide, because with the "sending" exercises the dog is expected to go his own way without the leash.

2—SIT. This exercise should be practiced especially in the "recall" exercise where the dog sits *in front* of the guide.

3-DOWN, STAY AND RECALL.

4—JUMPING. Here we must practice with natural obstacles such as barbed wire, low and deep trenches if possible filled with water. Under all circumstances avoid circus tricks such as narrow jumping boards painted white; also the so-called "broad jump" as described under that heading must be done away with. Instead, the dog will have to be prepared for more difficult tasks by using a hurdle with cut-off brush and branches for which, later, will be substituted barbed wire obstacles and dug trenches to a limit of six feet wide.

5—RETRIEVING. This is of highest importance. As retrieving is vital to Red Cross work, many dogs have to be discarded if their retrieving ability is in the slightest uncertain. The better natural retriever a dog is, the more skillful will be his performance along this line.

6—REPORTING. Here we have something quite different from the reporting as carried out by the messenger dog. In this exercise the dog reports by taking in his mouth the bringsel which is attached to his collar and which he trails about with him at all times. When he finds

a wounded or helpless man lying on the ground, he picks up his own bringsel and retrieves it to his master or guide. This much can be taught the dog only after he has become an A-1 retriever; after he learns to thoroughly enjoy such exercise.

The experimental wounded, or the soldier who, during this training, simulates the helpless man on the field of battle, must be instructed in his duties as carefully as the dog, and he must be as dependable. Never while in practice should the experimental wounded pet the dog or use any commands whatsoever. He must act perfectly the part he is supposed to play, that of a helpless, inert figure. The dog finds him; then, retrieving with his bringsel in his mouth, the dog returns to his guide, sitting in front of him and holding the bringsel in his mouth until the guide fastens on him the long leash. Thereupon the dog leads back again to the wounded, followed by one or perhaps two stretcher bearers.

7—TRAILING. This exercise approximates that of trailing in the seven fundamental trailing exercises, but it does not have to be as clean as in police work. Moreover, the free use of the dog's eyes is permissible because the chief purpose is to locate persons who are helpless. Attention must be directed to see that the dog goes always in a given direction; that he *does not return* without the bringsel in his mouth merely to be near his guide and master.

8—GUN-Sureness. This of necessity must be taught

in connection with all exercises, and under the same conditions as in messenger dog training.

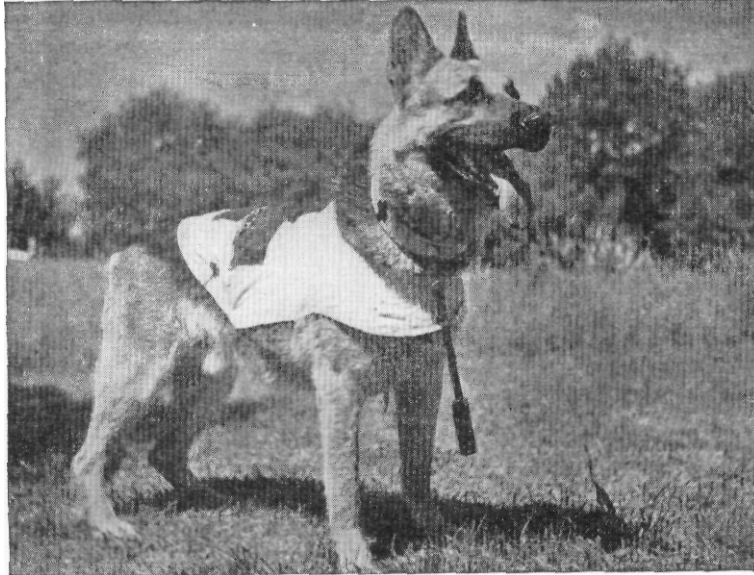
EQUIPMENT

It would lead our discussion too far astray at this point to mention the conflicting ideas about the equipment needed in this type of work; conflicting ideas, it might be said, among trainers themselves as well as among people in general. In the minds of laymen such equipment may take the form of a bottle of whiskey fastened to the dog's neck, and also a first aid kit strapped to the body. I have seen even, in front of the dog, a large sign bearing a red cross, and a briefcase containing much doubtful material. Worse than these things, I learned of a publicity stunt in which a Red Cross dog carried a homing pigeon!

This, it might be added by way of explanation, would be a violation of international law because the First Aid dog is absolutely neutral and is not employed in any type of belligerent activity. To the credit of all warring factions in the First World War it must be admitted that this law was strictly observed by all parties. Not a single violation was committed. The dogs, too, were true to the humanity of their calling: though trained in one language, many dogs which were captured by the enemy worked for the enemy in the same manner and with the same spirit as they did for their original owners or guides. Dogs later

recaptured in troop movements worked again undisturbed provided the right commands and signs were used.

The equipment of Red Cross dogs consists of a white collar with Red Cross insignia on two sides: it is about



The Casualty Dog is equipped with a white collar, a white blanket for night work and a bringsel for reporting.

1 1/4 inches wide. A ring for the leash and the bringsel are permanently attached to the collar. For night work is used a white blanket with a Red Cross not on the sides but on the top of the back so as to be easily recognized **in** the darkness by low-flying planes.

The bringsel is an adjustable piece of leather, with a

snap hook for fastening to the collar when the dog is sent in search of the wounded. All persons found in sitting or lying down position must be reported by the dog which, upon sighting such a person, takes in his mouth the bringsel hanging from his collar and returns immediately to his guide. Here he delivers in the accepted style of retrieving by sitting in front of his master. The latter then leashes the dog and is led by him to the wounded man. Stretcher bearers follow to take care of the casualty in the correct manner.

When ordered out, the dog often has to work his way over territory usually strewn with abandoned war material, demolished houses, barbed wire fences, guns, etc., until by means of his highly organized sense of smell he is directed toward the injured soldier. Working under such conditions is proof enough that the strange assortment of equipment mentioned earlier in this chapter would serve only to hinder the dog, even tangle him up perhaps in passing through the varied obstacles in his path. The standard equipment previously described for Red Cross dogs has proved its worth, mainly because the seriously wounded man is for the most part unconscious and therefore unable to help himself to anything the dog might bring to his side.

Beginners in Red Cross training, yes, and even some experts, have upon occasion doubted the value of the bringsel. They have not realized its primary object. Of

course, it is admitted right here that the bringsel method of reporting required a little more time than the barking method. But barking often frightens a wounded man. I am convinced that the bringsel, in the long run, is the most effective, the most certain method of report thus far studied and used.

Reporting without the bringsel has been practiced for years but results "were unsatisfactory. During earlier uses of Red Cross dogs, the latter were trained to announce their find by jumping up on their guides. The guides then made the DOWN sign with their hands and so confused the dogs that they did not lead off toward their find because evidently they expected a second command.

Another erroneous and since discarded method consisted of teaching the dogs to retrieve an article belonging to the wounded—a cap or hat perhaps. This caused further injury, often displacing a head bandage; or frequently the helmet strap held the cap fast with the result that the dog retrieved anything found on the ground. This created undesired associations in the dog's mind and confused him in his work.

For this reason, any announcing or reporting with an article was eliminated and the bringsel method substituted with greater success. The dog now carries with him constantly the evidence of his find and no decoy can be used. Right at the scene of his find comes the dog's immediate

reaction as, with the bringsel in his mouth, he returns to his guide.

Once more let us repeat that all work in this exercise is practiced upon individuals in sitting or lying-down position, a great difference from the type of training employed for messenger dogs.

The question is often asked: What will a dog do when he finds a dead person? In all my practice with Red Cross dog work; in all of the reports with which I have had experience, and they are without number, I have never been able to fathom why a dog will not report a dead person. He merely ignores him. Whether his instinct tells him that human aid is now of no avail I do not know. Possibly it is because we train him for this work only with experimental wounded who were alive. At any rate, no one to my knowledge, has thus far solved the riddle of the Red Cross dog's intelligence in deciding to report living wounded, and in not reporting those past human aid.

Now, go back for a moment and refer to page 53, where I have written: "Every single dog, irrespective of the kind of training given, whether for moving pictures, for stage, for Red Cross or for police work, starts off with the ground work of obedience." This consists of exercises 1 to 5, and 7 to 12. An explanation will follow as to the correct utilization of this work and also an enlarged version of it.

RETRIEVING

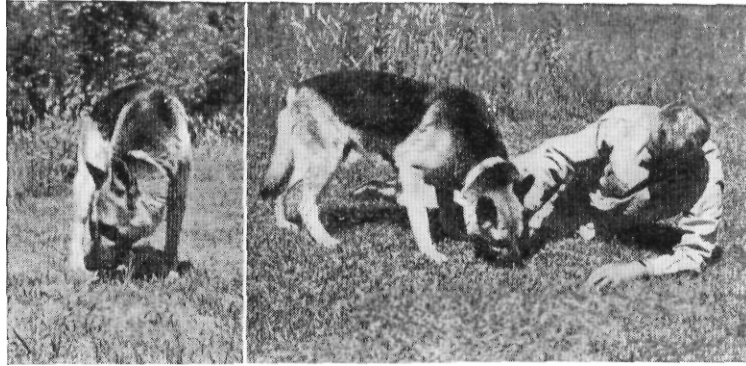
The foundation of Red Cross work is retrieving. A great asset is a dog which retrieves well, though it is not absolutely necessary that he retrieve in as correct a manner as may be demanded by obedience test standards. If the dog is taught merely to catch the bringsel, to lift it from the ground upon command, a great deal of work and time can be saved.

This section of the exercise had best be undertaken only by experienced trainers because a dog is easily ruined for this work by the guide prone to lose his temper. Suppose, however, it becomes necessary to employ the services of a high-strung guide for Red Cross training. Then it will be advisable to instill the correct manner of retrieving by throwing the dumbbell away, letting the dog bring it to the guide. Thereafter, shorten the distance until the dog is picking up the dumbbell easily even though the guide throws it directly in front of himself, the dog in that case being close beside him in sitting position.

This much accomplished, the bringsel is next used, and at the slightest attempt on the part of the dog to catch it, he must be lavishly praised.

Never should the Red Cross dog be permitted to pick up any article near the wounded, or anywhere else. He must be trained strictly to the bringsel. That is all that concerns him. Guide and trainer both must practice the

handling of the long leash in order to avoid any tangling which might connote punishment in the dog's mind. At the very least, it would confuse him.



Left—The dog retrieves the bringsel instead of the dumbbell. The bringsel is NOT fastened to the collar but is thrown like the dumbbell. *Right*—The wounded is lying on his side, attracting the dog's attention to the bringsel by moving it back and forth on the ground.

The exercise starts with an experimental wounded placed just a few steps off to the side of the guide, this so that the wounded may assist the dog during the initial stages of the lesson in picking up the bringsel. And, incidentally, the wounded man constantly changes his position, lying first on the one side, then on the other and finally on his back.

Now the dog is ordered off without the bringsel. The wounded man holds the bringsel in his hand and as the

dog approaches he moves it back and forth on the ground to attract the dog's attention. It will be recalled that the dog already recognizes the bringsel which has become familiar to him as a result of previous retrieving exercises in which the bringsel replaced the dumbbell.

At all times the guide faces the dog. He never turns his back on him. At the command FORWARD, in the direction of the wounded—right arm extended to direct the dog toward the right; left arm extended to motion him to the left—the guide takes a few steps in the indicated direction to encourage the dog along. At the exact moment when the dog reaches the wounded, is the second command FETCH given.

As soon as the dog has learned to pick up the bringsel close beside the wounded, the bringsel is fastened to his collar, then the same procedure practiced again at short distance with the bringsel attached to him.

Let us repeat the lesson once more in greater detail. At the command FORWARD the dog is sent out toward the wounded. Upon arriving, he hears the command FETCH. Usually he will lower his head in order to pick up the bringsel which is now on the ground due to the lowering of his head. If the dog makes no move to pick it up, the wounded then proceeds to move it back and forth, or perhaps he slaps the ground with his hand close to the spot where the bringsel lies. The moment the dog

makes the slightest attempt to nose the bringsel, the guide calls FETCH **in** an encouraging voice until the dog gets the idea and picks it up. It will not be long before he understands and, when he does, that **is**, when he picks up the bringsel without command, the command FETCH is eliminated entirely.

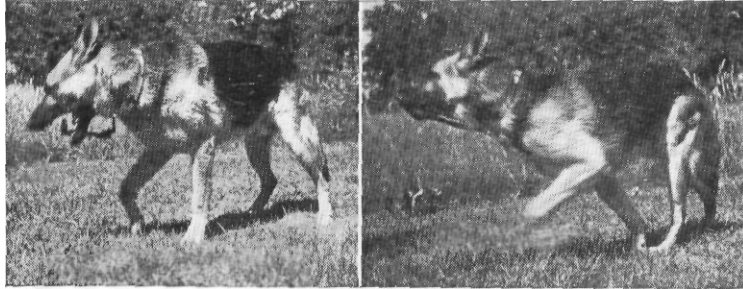
I might venture the opinion that in the mind of the dog there is no such thing as a wounded man or even an experimental wounded. His attention is centered upon persons sitting or lying down. All others he must ignore. Those standing upright must be neither announced nor reported.

Now this is important. From the beginning must be inculcated the act of picking up the bringsel only when close beside the wounded. Even though the dog may have spotted the wounded at fairly long distance, he must approach closely, otherwise he might be confused, especially **in** the darkness, by coats or other articles lying around.

It is likewise important to point out the necessity for placing the wounded near trees and houses for the dog will seek with greater attention these natural hiding places which, in trailing, he has always associated with the presence of people. However, if such hiding places are used as a matter of routine, the dog will accept them too much as a matter of course and refuse, or neglect, to seek further.

By this I mean that the territory over which this exercise is practiced must be changed constantly.

In order to accustom the dog to work with the army, the man used in this type of training ought to be in uni-



As soon as the dog has learned to pick up the bringsel close beside the wounded, the bringsel is fastened to his collar, then the same procedure is practised again a short distance with the bringsel attached to him.

form. At the same time they should vary their general appearance to this extent: they should be bandaged about the head, the body, the legs, lest the dogs become frightened in actual battle by such coverings. Too, they should at times be half hidden under coats or blankets to further simulate conditions on the battlefield. They should be lying down, sitting up, rolling around as if in pain; moaning, smoking, etc., if for no other reason than to attract the dog's attention as decoys.

Throughout the area employed during training for this

exercise we must strew pieces of equipment; also coats, suits giving off the scent of human beings, etc., and what is even more necessary, we must provide a certain amount of noise and confusion in order to condition the dogs to the atmosphere of war.

REPORTING

In the beginning this new exercise is practiced at short distance until it is associated in the dog's mind with trailing at longer distance. Therefore, what may be termed preparation for it must be followed exactly so as to avoid undue hardship which might result in failure.

It is easily realized that barking by the dog would inevitably draw enemy fire, perhaps even cause a fresh attack, consequently the dog must not be allowed to give voice when he locates the wounded. Another reason for instilling the habit of complete silence *on* the part of the dog making the find is that the wounded soldier might become frightened at sight of the dog; might even attempt to strike him, whereupon the dog's natural sense of self preservation would prompt him to bark or bite. Moreover the dog's bark at the point of find might be so far distant from the guide, especially in or close to wooded areas, hills, etc., that it would set up echoes and thus cause confusion regarding the exact spot whence it had emanated. And if several dogs happened to announce finds at

the same time by barking, the ensuing crossed signals would tend to nullify or at least hamper quick-following work by the guides and their stretcher bearers.

Insofar as this exercise is concerned, a very valuable command is the punish-order NO, issued whenever the dog attempts to take up the bringsel too far from the wounded, or when he picks it up on sighting people in upright position. If only the guide can catch the dog at the psychological moment when he makes such mistakes, he can correct them instantly by commanding NO. If the mistaken moment is passed, that is, if the dog already has in his mouth the bringsel picked up at the wrong time, or under the wrong circumstances, the command OUT is given and the entire exercise repeated.

The two commands NO and OUT are vastly different, and special attention must be paid by the guide in order to avoid error. For example, suppose the dog returning with the bringsel in his mouth stops to smell the ground. Here is the first opportunity to use the command NO. This means that the dog must continue to hold the bringsel in his mouth without dropping it. Were the command OUT given under such circumstances the dog would drop the bringsel which at this particular time is just the opposite of what is wanted. When he releases his hold on a bringsel he is expected to keep in his mouth, the command HOLD IT must be issued instantly.

Cases of the kind described in the foregoing paragraph

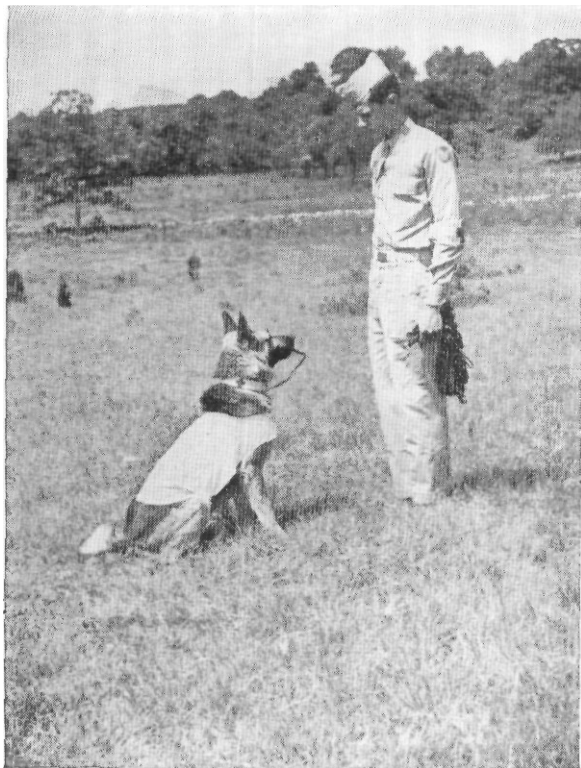
will require correction by an experienced trainer: true, they are faults of minor character but, even so, faults which must be corrected. In the case of the amateur or beginning trainer, it is best that he repeat the exercises several times, under the command, FORWARD sending the dog out again and again to the wounded until he learns to accomplish really clean reporting.

Once the dog has picked up the bringsel, he must return at once and deliver in the correct manner by sitting in front of his guide. Strict attention must be paid to the fine points of the delivery, one of these being that the dog hold the bringsel in his mouth until the command OUT is issued. This is to avoid having the dog drop the bringsel at the feet of the guide. In night work, when the use of no light is permitted, the guide could not know whether the dog had reported or not, hence the value of teaching him to hold the bringsel until ordered to release it. The command OUT is given not in a harsh or punishing tone but rather quietly, slowly and with friendliness.

Especially in the beginning when constant correction may be needed, practice must be systematic and done preferably in an open field. This will the more readily assure steady control.

In work of this type, the dog does not actually trail; he merely walks to the wounded. It has been claimed that all too often he reverts to eye trailing as opposed to scent trailing, meaning of course that he just looks around in

order to detect the wounded. Such a claim, however, is without foundation in fact, if for no other reason than that the longer distances so frequently traversed in lo-



The dog returns to the guide and sits, with the bringsel in his mouth to announce his find.

eating the wounded compel the dog to use his power of scent. But, as in any other type of training, it is permissible to help the dog as far as possible and, in any way at all,

familiarize him with his duties. Once he learns what is expected of him, the hardest part of his schooling is done.

It is customary to allocate the experimental wounded sideways from the guide for the purpose of teaching the dog to walk in zig-zag direction. Starting with the short distance of, say, 15 yards, the wounded should lie to the right or left of the guide.

We begin, then with the 15-yard stretch, marked the beginner's stage, and extend the distance to about 60 yards, gradually placing the wounded right and left until the dog gets the idea. However, throughout this practice, even the very short distance must be used occasionally to avoid automatic performance on the part of the dog. Perhaps at times the dog may seem to grow absent minded or disinterested—this is the time to return to the short distance again except in those cases where the disinterestedness may trace to overwork.

Now, the experimental wounded should never be permitted to influence the dog. This is strictly the guide's job. Nor should the dog be petted by the wounded because this might tend to keep him by the wounded soldier's side at a time when he should be returning promptly to his guide for the report.

Another reason for returning occasionally to the shorter distance even when the dog can negotiate the longer distance with more or less success, is when the dog for some unknown cause shys off the wounded or other-

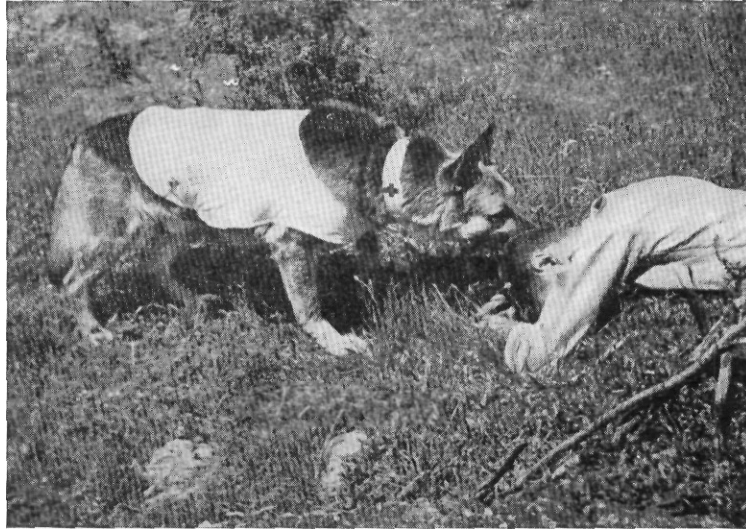
wise shows sign of fear. In this emergency, the guide must immediately shorten the distance and definitely try to encourage the dog. This, however, the wounded must on no account do. The experimental wounded must continuously act his part in simulating the man helpless, unconscious, or perhaps writhing in pain. It is not his place to encourage the dog.

It cannot be repeated too often that the guide or trainer must be lavish with his praise, especially when returning with the leashed dog to the wounded he has found. And never should the dog experience the slightest discomfort; yes, even the DOWN or STAY on cold or wet ground might be said to constitute discomfort or to signify punishment in the dog's mind.

An important warning at this point concerns the area immediately surrounding the wounded. No other people, singly or in groups, should be allowed in sitting position anywhere near the wounded for this is bound to breed confusion in the dog's mind. The Red Cross dog, remember, is being trained to center his chief interest in people in this position, that is, in people sitting or lying down. These he is to report, but no others. Naturally then, groups of sitting persons, not wounded, can lead only to false reporting or absolute uncertainty on the part of the dog, and this above all things is to be guarded against.

Upon reporting his find to the guide, the dog is leashed with the long lead. Now in this manner guide and dog

start off in the direction from which the dog came, the guide giving the new command BACK-HOPP-HOPP. A supremely important moment has now arrived, one which requires the complete attention of the guide who

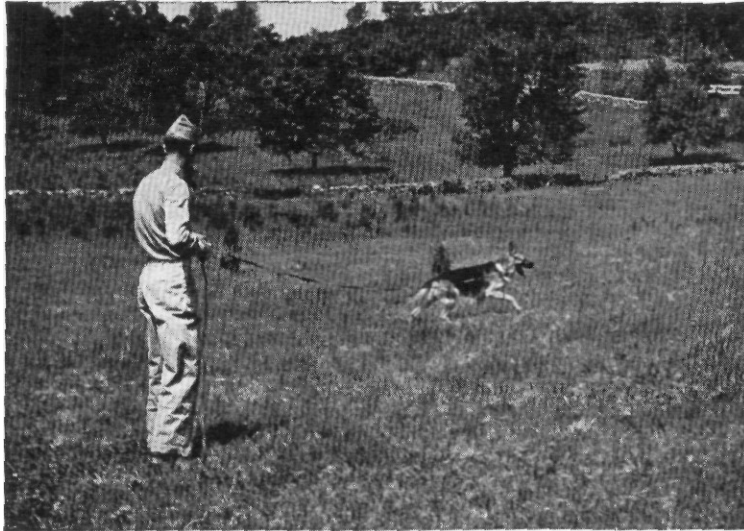


The dog must go as close as possible to the wounded when picking up the bringsel.

must slow down to a pace giving the dog the opportunity to lead.

Giving out as much leash as possible and, in friendly voice, repeating the command as encouragement, the guide follows the dog. The more rapidly the dog walks the better the style of the whole exercise for the simple reason that a fast pace increases the dog's eagerness. And when he arrives at the side of the wounded, the dog

should be petted and praised. The wounded should now get up and walk away for the special object of finishing off the exercise. The dog knows he has done his part and the particular job is done. Moreover, the fact that



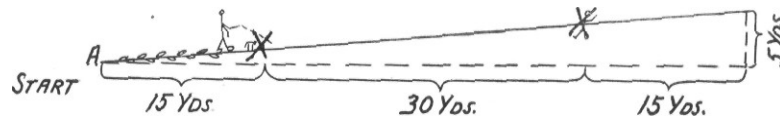
After the dog reported his find to the guide, he is leashed and leads to the wounded.

the wounded moves directly away from the spot at which the dog has found him, prevents the dog thereafter from associating that one spot only with this phase of his work. Otherwise he would be tempted during his earlier training period to return again and again to the same place. He must not be permitted to get in a rut by associating certain places **with** particular parts of his duties.

When the dog has learned to work correctly in the

60-yard field, a systematic plan is made, and the territory marked off with inconspicuous posts or stakes, this for the purpose of having the dog work with two or more experimental wounded.

The following plan proved the most successful: it is so plain that all will understand it. The field is square, 120 yards on each side. The center is the direction line from which dog and guide start out, while the wounded lies 60 yards to the right from this line.



Sketch of the beginner's stage, the wounded placed at the points marked x.

Bear in mind that we are still working on the retrieving and reporting exercise; we are still in the training phase of our work. Thus there is no ample reason for the comparatively small size of the training field. In too large a field, the guide might risk losing control of a dog unfamiliar with the exercise now to be explained.

The accompanying sketch, page 253, will give a good idea of the procedure. The direction line is the path of the guide and his dog. A is the starting point, while the encircled numbers 1 to 12 indicate positions of the wounded.

When the guide is familiar with the field and the mark-

ings are made, the work begins. A wounded lies at point *1*, five yards up from line *A* to the right. A second wounded lies at point *2*, fifteen yards up from line *A* to the left. Both wounded are not visible to the dog but wounded *2* must pay attention as wounded *1* is escorted by the guide.

The dog is sent to the right to find wounded *1* as the guide advances slowly along the direction line, keeping his eyes to the right in order to observe the dog. If the dog succeeds in finding *1*, he will meet the advancing guide at point *B*. The guide takes the bringsel out of the dog's mouth, attaches the long leash and is thereupon led by the dog to the wounded whom he helps up and back to the starting point *A*.

Again the guide starts out from point *B*, sending the dog to the left this time to wounded *2*, now visible from point *B*. The same procedure follows—sending, reporting by the dog, leading the guide back, etc. These tactics are repeated with wounded *3* and *4*, after which the distance may be extended by skipping point *5* and *7* instead, always however starting from *A*.

If after a few days, in which different wounded are used, the dog grows quite certain in his work, the identical exercises are practiced for several nights. Then when that much of the work has been accomplished satisfactorily, it must be done still again with obstacles. Standing people, which of course must be ignored by the dog, are placed

at various points on the field to serve as obstacles. Groups of people, too, may be employed for the same purpose: they pass back and forth over the field without paying the slightest attention to the dog. Remember the punishing-voiced command NO in case the dog does not ignore them.

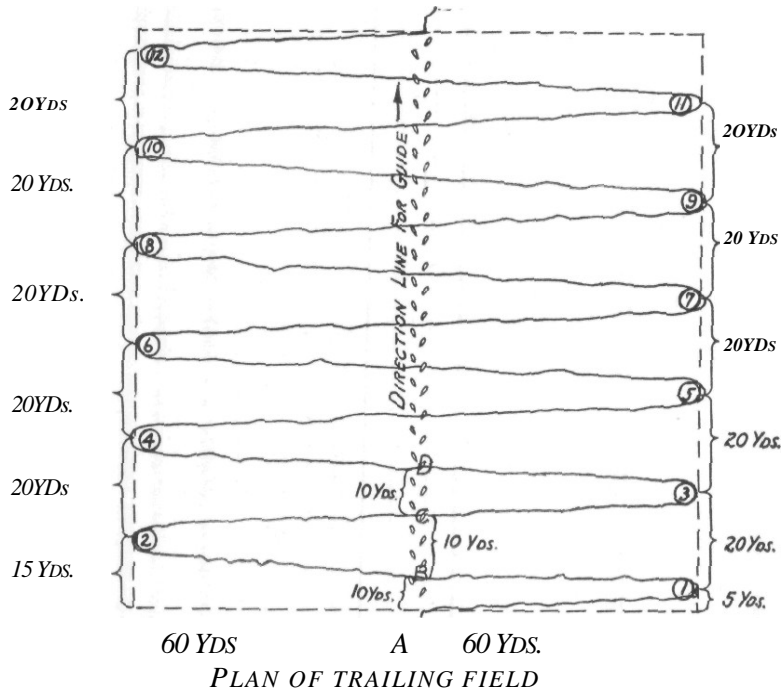
TRAILING

Thus far, guide and dog have been practicing regularly in the limited field in order to become accustomed to routine, zig-zag walks. The steady shifting from *A* to *I*; by the dog at points *B*, *C*, *D*, etc., must become routine. When this is thoroughly grounded, then we may advance to trailing.

First, let us consider how trailing of Red Cross dogs differs from that of police dogs. In all police work, trainers concentrate their initial attention on wind direction, especially during the preliminary practice of training for trailing, whereas trainers of Red Cross dogs do *not* pay much attention to wind direction principally because the Red Cross dog derives no such assistance in actual battle. In other words, there are no rules governing sudden attacks by the enemy or ambushing patrols. For this reason the Red Cross dog must be trained without benefit of these natural aids. At the same time the dog is compelled to use his sense of smell more than his eyes, otherwise his

work would become aimless, and this is exactly what we must avoid.

Again let us begin with the 120X100 yard area. This time, though, the starting point is X which leads to 10



where the wounded lies covered *completely out of sight*. Up to now, in order to accustom the dog to zig-zag walking, we have practiced only with visible wounded.

If the wounded walks to his point without the dog's knowledge but at the same time marking the ground with his foot scent as necessary in Companion Dog Training

(see Trailing), it will not be long before the dog acquires the habit of using his nose. Even trailing with "high nose"—meaning with head up or with the aid of his eyes—cannot be considered faulty or careless trailing in this instance because the Red Cross dog depends more upon body perspiration than upon foot scent. This indicates that the dog understands what we are after.

Naturally in trailing of this sort we work with but one or two wounded—the close proximity of other persons must under all circumstances be avoided. Care must be exercised to see that not even walking people be in the area as this might interfere markedly with the dog's concentration at this stage.

When the dog understands this much of the idea, that is, the finding of sitting or recumbent people whom he cannot see, then the time is ripe to place decoys on the field. But again remember that no attention should be paid to, or report made of, those not in sitting or lying down position. Should the dog consider upright people for a moment, the guide must instantly correct the mistake with the command NO.

A certain amount of difficulty will be experienced in the beginning to keep the dog going in sidewise direction while the guide remains true to the center direction line. Steady practice however will lead finally to success. Many times the guide must traverse a part of the direction with the dog, but he must try to return to the direction

line by *'walking backward*. The instant the dog stops or makes even the slightest attempt to return to the guide, the latter must immediately advance toward the dog so as to encourage him in taking the given direction. Continued practice, repetition and more repetition will accomplish the desired result.

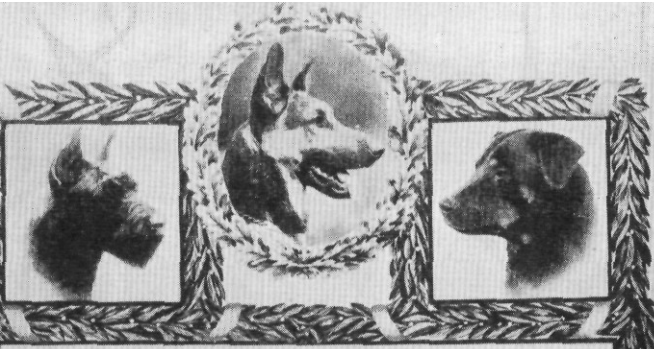
There may be, probably will be, a certain amount of trouble in the return of the dog after he has reached the 60-yard distance. The idea is not to patrol an exact 60-yard beat in an open field and then call the dog back as soon as this 60-yard limit has been reached. Rather, the idea is to have the dog search any obstacles which may lie within or beyond this 60-yard line. Bushes, shell-holes, trees and trenches should be used extensively and the wounded placed in them. If the dog, on his way out, cannot be seen finally, the guide must bring into use that sixth sense to determine whether or not the dog has reached his goal, and if he is not returning with a report, to whistle or call him back by name.

Then, when the dog returns, he must be sent out again in the opposite direction, following exactly the same procedure.

The chief aim of the Red Cross dog is to assist the guide in finding wounded soldiers in places where it would require too much time to patrol the entire territory, and in battle areas where it would be dangerous or too difficult

for men to search such territory. How valuable is the use of Red Cross dogs can now be appreciated.

Before thoroughly trained dogs are sent to the front to take part in actual warfare, they should pass an examination in entirely unfamiliar territory with several experimental wounded. Both the wounded and the area used for this test must be unknown to guide and dog, and the type or correctness of work performed should decide whether the dog is ready and able to serve on the battlefield or whether he must go back for additional training. It is needless to say that this final examination should be strict; that it is very much to the point to give the dog a few more weeks of intensive training than to send to the front dogs and guides not completely trained for this highly responsible work.



NEW ENGLAND TRAINING SCHOOL for DOGS
founded • 1928

Companion Dog Trial Certificate

This is to certify that the German Shepherd Dog
BLITZ • n. GRAMMAR • A.B.C. 93-542
Owner: Mrs. E.N. Belliveau - Mattapan Mass.
Guide: Mr. F. Belliveau - Mattapan Mass.
having given evidence of fitness in obedience work
at the Companion Dog Trial held at Boston Mass.
was awarded • Very Good • and the degree
Companion Dog (C.D.)

Boston, Mass.
April 7, 1935

Trainer:
H. Gosselle



Judge:
W. Tucker



STANDARD FOR OBEDIENCE TRIALS

SECTION 1. The purpose of Obedience Trials is to demonstrate the usefulness of the pure-bred dog as the companion and guardian of man, and not the ability of the dog to acquire facility in the performance of mere tricks. The classification which has been adopted is progressive with the thought in mind that a dog which can be termed a utility dog has demonstrated his fitness to a place in our modern scheme of living.

SECTION 2. If the tests take place indoors the ring must be at least 30' wide and 50' long and must be thoroughly cleaned immediately before the judging starts. The floor shall have a surface or covering adequate to provide firm footing for the largest dogs and rubber or similar non-slip material for the take-off and landing at all jumps. If the tests take place out-of-doors the ring shall be at least 50' wide and 80' long. The ground shall be level and the grass, if any, shall be cut short.

SECTION 3. A word of praise is allowed between tests and between separate parts of individual tests after the Judge has said "Exercise finished," but no offering of any kind of food may be given in the ring. All exercises, except "Heel on Leash," "Stand for Examination" and "Tracking," shall be performed off leash. Imperfections in heeling between exercises will not be judged, but any disciplining by the handler in the ring, or any uncontrolled behavior of the dog, such as snapping, unjustified barking, or running out of the



The first exhibition of trained dogs, for the Animal Rescue League, Boston, Mass., at the summer conference, 1940, at Amrita Island, Mass.

ring, even between exercises, will be severely penalized by deducting points from the total score, and the Judge may bar the dog from further competition at that trial.

SECTION 4. In all parts of all exercises performed in the ring, a single command or signal only may be given by the handler, and any extra commands or signals, or the giving of a command and a signal will be penalized; except that whenever the dog is made to "Stay" the command and a simultaneous signal may be given without penalty. Signaling correction to the dog from a distance is forbidden. Any unusual noises may be considered to be signals. No penalty shall be attached for the use of a dog's name when given in conjunction with any command.

SECTION 5. In the Novice and Open Classes, the handler shall enter the ring with his dog on loose leash and shall stand still with dog sitting at heel at the handler's left side until the Judge asks if the handler is ready and then gives the order, "Forward," at which order the handler will attract his dog's attention by saying his name and then give the command, "Heel," and at the same time start walking briskly with the dog on loose leash. At the command, "Heel," the dog shall walk close to the left side of the handler, without crowding, permitting the handler freedom of motion at all times. At each order to "Halt," the handler will stop and his dog shall sit smartly at heel without command or signal, and not move until ordered to do so. It is permissible after each halt before moving again for the handler to give the command, "Heel," to his dog. Any tightening or jerking of the leash or any act, signal or command which, in the opinion of the Judge, gives the dog unnecessary or unfair assistance shall be penalized. The Judge will give the orders, "Left turn," "Right turn," "About turn," "Slow" and "Fast," which

last order signifies that the handler and dog must run. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated if necessary. In executing the "About Turn," the handler will use a "right about turn" in the Novice Classes and both the "right about turn" and the "left about turn" in the Open Classes on specific orders, "Right about turn" and "Left about turn," from the Judge. The "Left about Turn" is to be executed by having the handler turn left, and the dog turn right, passing behind the handler's back. The Judge will order the handler to execute the "Figure Eight," which signifies that the handler shall walk around and between the two Stewards who shall stand not more than eight feet apart, or if there is only one Steward shall walk around and between the Judge and the Steward. The "Figure Eight" shall be done on leash in the Novice Classes and off leash in the Open Classes. The Judge will say, "Exercise finished" and "Are you ready?" after the heeling, but before the "Figure Eight." There shall be no "About Turn" in the "Figure Eight," but the handler and dog shall go twice completely around the "Figure Eight" with at least one "Halt" during and another "Halt" at the end of the exercise.

SECTION 6. "Stand for Examination." The Judge will give the order, "Stand your dog" and the handler will stand or pose his dog on leash, give the command and/or signal to "Stay," walk in front of his dog, turn around, and stand facing his dog. The Judge will touch the dog's head, body and hind quarters and then give the order, "Back to your dog," whereupon the handler will walk around behind his dog to the heel position. The dog must remain in a standing position until the Judge says, "Exercise finished." The dog must show no nervousness nor resentment.

SECTION 7. "Heel Free" shall be executed in the same manner as "Heel on Leash" except that the dog is off the lead.

SECTION 8. To execute the "Recall" to handler, the dog is ordered to and must be made to stay in the sitting position at one end of the ring while his handler moves to the other end, and when the judge gives the order, "Do the Recall," the handler calls his dog, which in the Novice Class must come straight in to its handler at a smart pace and when it reaches a point immediately in front of the handler, first sit, and next at command or signal go smartly to heel. In the Open Class at command or signal the dog must drop as it is coming in; and then on command or signal rise and continue on its way and, when it reaches a point immediately in front of the handler, first sit and then at command or signal go smartly to heel.

SECTION 9. In the "Sitting One Minute" test, the handler goes to the end of the ring opposite to that end where the dog has been left in the sitting position, and when the time limit has expired returns to his dog, which must not move from the sitting position until spoken to and permission has been given by its handler after the Judge says, "Exercise finished." The order is "Sit stay." In the "Sitting Three Minutes" test all handlers leave the ring and remain out of sight of their dogs until the time limit has expired.

SECTION 10. In the "Down Three or Five Minutes" test, the same conditions prevail as in the "Sitting" tests, except that the dog must remain in a lying down position. The order is "Down stay." In the "Five Minutes" test, all handlers leave the ring and remain out of sight of their dogs until the time limit has expired.



IN SQUADS



IN CIRCLES

One of the author's training classes in action.

SECTION 11. All the competing dogs take the "Sit" and "Down" tests in the ring together, unless the class is too large, in which case it may be split up into groups of not less than six dogs each. However, in no case shall more than fifteen dogs take the "Sit" or "Down" tests in the ring together. In the "Long Sit" and "Long Down" for both Novice and Open Classes, the dogs shall be lined up in catalog order. Handlers' armbands weighted with leashes or other articles, if necessary, shall be placed behind the dogs.

SECTION 12. In "Retrieving Dumbbell on the Flat,"¹¹ the dog shall not move forward to retrieve nor deliver to hand on return until ordered by the handler. The retrieve should be executed at a fast trot or gallop without mouthing or playing with the object. After delivering the object from in front of the handler, the dog upon command or signal shall go to heel. The size of the dumbbell may vary in proportion to the size of the dog. The orders given by the Judge in this test shall be "Throw it," whereupon the handler gives the command or signal to "Stay" and throws the dumbbell; "Send him," whereupon the handler sends his dog to retrieve; "Take it," whereupon the handler takes the dumbbell from the dog; "Finish," whereupon the handler gives the command or signal to heel.

SECTION 13. In "Retrieving the Dumbbell over the obstacle," the exercise is executed in the same manner as the "Retrieve on the Flat," except that the dog must jump the obstacle both going and coming. The obstacle or high jump shall be jumped clear and shall in no case be less than one and one half times the heights of the dog at the withers, except that the maximum height shall be 3 feet. This applies, to all breeds except those listed below for which it shall be once the height of the dog at the withers, with *a* maximum of

3 feet: Bull-Mastiffs, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs, Newfoundlands and St. Bernards.

The side posts of the "High Jump" shall be 4 feet high and the jump shall be 5 feet wide and shall be so constructed as to provide adjustment for each 2 inches from 12 inches to 36 inches. It was suggested that the jump have a bottom board 8 inches wide including the space from the bottom of the board to the ground, together with three other 8 inch boards, one 6 inch board, and one 4 inch board. The jump shall be painted a flat white. The width in inches shall be painted on each side of each board in black 2 inch figures, the figure on the bottom board representing the distance from the ground to the top of the board.

SECTION 14. The "Broad Jump" shall consist of four separate hurdles, built to telescope for convenience, the largest measuring about 5 feet wide and 7 inches high at the highest point and painted a flat white. When set up, they shall be spaced so as to cover a distance equal to not less than two and one half times the height of the dog at the withers, except that the maximum distance covered by the hurdles shall be 6 feet. This applies to all breeds, except those listed in Section 13, for which the distance covered by the hurdles shall be not less than twice the height at the withers, with a maximum of 6 feet. Hurdles shall be removed in proportion to the height of the dog and the highest hurdles shall be removed first. In the execution of the "Broad Jump," the handler will stand with his dog at the heel position in front of and within ten feet of the jump. On order from the Judge to "Leave your dog," the handler will give his dog the command and/or signal to "Stay" and go to a position at the side of the jump, about two feet from the jump, and within the range of the first and last hurdles. On order from the Judge, the handler shall call the dog's name and give the command

or signal to jump and the dog shall clear the entire width of the broad jump without touching and, without further command or signal, return to a sitting position immediately in front of the handler as in the "Recall." The handler may change his position slightly after giving the command or signal "Over." On order from the Judge, the handler will give the command or signal to "Heel" and the dog shall finish in the prescribed manner.

SECTION 15. "Scent Discrimination." In this exercise, the dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article which has been handled by his handler from each of three groups of five absolutely identical articles. The articles shall be provided by the handler and these shall consist of metal, wood and leather objects, respectively. Upon entering the ring for the Utility Class, the handler shall present all the articles to the Judge and the Judge shall designate one article from each of the three sets to be the handler's articles. At the start of the "Scent Discrimination" exercise, the remaining twelve articles will be placed at random in the ring about six inches apart. The handler will stand about fifteen feet from the articles, with the dog sitting at heel position, with his back to the articles. The handler will place one of his articles on the Judge's book and the Judge will place it among the other articles. On order from the Judge to "Send him," the handler and the dog will turn to face the articles, and the handler will place his hand gently over the dog's nose and give the command to "Get it." The dog shall go at a brisk pace to the articles, but may take any reasonable time to select the right article provided he works continuously and does not pick up any article other than his handler's. After picking up the right article, the dog shall bring it smartly to his handler, and the exercise is completed as in the "Retrieve" exercises. The same procedure is repeated for the two other



Pioneers of dog show exhibitions. This group exhibited their dogs, trained by the author, in many dog show exhibitions throughout the East.

types of articles. At the close of this exercise, the articles shall be removed from the ring.

SECTION 16. "Seek Back." In this exercise, the article used must be approved by the Judge and must not be a conspicuous one nor white in color. The article used shall be dropped surreptitiously by the handler as he is walking with his dog at heel. After the handler has proceeded at least thirty yards from the place where the article was dropped, the dog shall be given the order to "Seek Back" and must retrieve the article and return with speed. The dog may retrieve either by sight or scent.

SECTION 17. "Signal Exercise." In this exercise, the handler, on order from the Judge, signals the dog to heel and moves forward at a normal pace, executing a series of exercises which include the following: "Right Turn," "Left Turn," "About Turn," "Slow," "Fast," "Normal Pace," and "Stand Stay." The different parts of the heeling may be done in any order and may be repeated only if necessary to accommodate the exercise to the size and shape of the ring. The dog is left in a "stand stay" position, the handler proceeding to a distance of about thirty feet from and facing the dog. The dog is signalled to come, dropped on hand-signal immediately in front of the handler, then signalled to sit, and finally finish in the approved manner. There will be no orders from the Judge except the initial order "Forward"; and the handler must not speak to his dog at any time in this exercise.

SECTION 18. "Hurdle and Bar Jump." The obstacles shall be the same height as those required in the Open Classes and they shall be placed between fifteen and twenty feet apart. The hurdle shall be the same as that used in the Open Classes, and the bar jump shall consist of a bar between 2 and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, painted black and white in alternate sec-

tions of about 3 inches each. The bar shall be supported by two 4 foot upright posts at least five feet apart. The bar shall be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 12 inches to 36 inches and shall be so constructed that the bar can be knocked off without disturbing the uprights. The exercise shall be done in the same manner as the "Broad Jump," the handler standing midway between and just to one side of the obstacles. In addition, the handler will place the dumbbell in the dog's mouth before leaving the dog in the "sit stay" position, and will take the dumbbell from the dog on order from the Judge, as in the "Retrieve." The dog shall jump the obstacles clear without pausing between them and without dropping the dumbbell. The handler shall give the command or signal "Over" for each obstacle.

SECTION 19. "Group Examination." All the competing dogs take this exercise together, except that if there are more than fifteen dogs, they shall be split into groups of not more than fifteen dogs. The handlers and their dogs line up in catalog order, side by side down the center of the ring with the dogs at heel position. Each handler shall place his armband, weighted with a leash or other article, if necessary, behind his dog. On order from the Judge to "Stand your dogs," all the handlers will stand or pose their dogs, and on order from the Judge, "Leave your dogs," all the handlers will give the command and/or signal to "Stay" and walk forward to the side of the ring, then about turn and face their dogs. The Judge will approach each dog in turn from the front and examine each dog by touching its head, body and hind quarters. After all dogs have been examined, and after the handlers have been away from their dogs for at least three minutes, the Judge will order the handlers, "Back to your dogs," and the handlers will walk around behind their dogs to the heel position, after which the Judge will say, "Exercise

finished." Each dog must remain standing at his position in the line, from the time his handler leaves him until the end of the exercise, and must show no nervousness nor resentment.

SECTION 20. "Tracking" must be performed with the dog on leash, the length of the track to be not less than 440 yards nor more than 500 yards, the scent to be not less than one half hour nor more than two hours old and that of a stranger who will leave a leather glove or wallet to be found at the end of the track. The tracklayer will follow the track (which has been staked out with flags a day or more earlier) collecting all the flags on the way with exception of one flag at the start of the track and one flag not more than 30 yards from the start of the track to indicate the direction of the track; then deposit the article at the end of the track, put on a pair of rubbers and leave the course, walking away from the article at right angles to the track. The tracklayers must wear leather-soled shoes. The length of the leash used in tracking must be 30 to 60 feet and the dog must work at this length with no help from the handler. A dog may, at the handler's option, be given one, and only one, second chance to take the scent between the two flags at the start, provided he has not passed the second flag.

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