

VALUABLE DOGS POISONED

Sudden Death of Two Bulldogs in Madison Square Garden.

RIGID INVESTIGATION STARTED

English Bulldog Sells for \$5,000 and a Boston Terrier for \$1,500—Final Awards Made.

Protests against the decisions of judges at the Dog Show in the Madison Square Garden paled into insignificance last night when it became known that two valuable bulldogs had suddenly died in their pens under most suspicious circumstances. Strong reasons existed for believing that the dogs had been poisoned, and the unfortunate occurrence gave a gloomy and uncomfortable ending to the second annual exhibit of the Ladies' Kennel Association. No one deplored the affair more deeply than the officers themselves, and a rigid investigation will be made in order to get at the true facts.

Dr. T. G. Sherwood, the veterinarian of the show, took the organs of the two dogs away for examination, and is to report to the Dog Show Committee early next week.

The dogs belonged to the Metropolitan Dog Exchange. Their names were Lady Ellen and Crib of Ashfield. The first was valued at \$600, and the second at \$700. Lady Ellen was a bull bitch which won first prize in the class for open bulldogs and bitches. It was said that James McCreery had made an offer for her, and that C. G. Hopton was to purchase Crib of Ashfield. The latter was a French bulldog, and a fine specimen.

About 7 o'clock in the evening, when most of the owners and those interested in the exhibits were at dinner, attendants found the two dogs in the throes of death, writhing on the floors of their kennels in agony. They realized that the situation was critical and they promptly notified E. M. Oldham, Superintendent of the show. When he reached the kennels where the dogs were they were dead.

The dogs were carried to the office of Mr. Oldham, and Dr. Sherwood was instantly summoned. After the circumstances of their death had been related to the veterinarian, he expressed the opinion that they had been poisoned and set about performing an "autopsy," and he will determine by chemical analysis whether or not they were poisoned. General gossip about the Garden was that the dogs had been given poisoned liver. The contention that they had been poisoned was intensified by the fact that their kennels were at least 100 feet apart, and in the opinion of those who have studied the circumstances attending the deaths of the dogs, there is no doubt that it was the work of a person who had planned their deaths.

Several dog fanciers in the Garden, however, said that in their opinion the dogs died of natural causes. They cited the fact that during the past four days all the dogs in the Garden have been in a continual state of excitement and nervousness and had suffered for want of rest. "Dogs are just like people," remarked one, "and these dogs may have died of heart disease."

Ivel Doctor, the English bulldog which took all prizes in its class, was sold during the evening to L. J. Knowles for \$5,000. This is the highest price paid for a dog during the show. Alfred Peat paid \$750 for Rodney Beatrice, a bull bitch which was bred by the Rodney Kennels. A Boston terrier, Dan Patch, from the Mount Ida Kennels of Boston, was sold for the high price of \$1,500 to George Rose of Roslyn, L. I.

No more formal protests were filed, but there was considerable talk among the exhibitors of what were termed unfair or peculiar decisions in a few prominent cases. Foxhall Keene came in for the chief condemnation. Mrs. D. T. Pulsifer, who lost the Stanton Cup for the best American-bred bulldog under eighteen months old, felt particularly incensed at the award of the cup to the Hellcote Kennels' Fiston. The latter dog, it is claimed, possesses "button ears," which is a true mark of disqualification, and the French Bulldog Club has been appealed to to set matters right.

Mrs. J. L. Kernochan, President of the Ladies' Association, said: "I hear there has been some dissatisfaction with some of the judging. This is unavoidable. A judge is not infallible; he can merely give his best personal opinion as to the merits of the dogs as they are shown."

Mrs. Kernochan spoke highly of the success of the show, even at this early date, and said that arrangements were under way for the third annual show next year.

But few prizes remained to be awarded, and they were all among the specials. Mrs. Kernochan won, as usual, the Meadows Challenge Cup and the Katerfalte medal for Irish terriers. William C. Whitney's Ballyhoo Bey Challenge Cup, for the best American-bred dog, was awarded to the Sachusett Kennels' Colonel B. Mrs. Gertrude Ross won the club cup for the finest Japanese spaniel in the show. Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Foote's Ringcraft won the cup given by R. J. McGaughey for the best black and tan terrier, and L. J. Knowles won the International Challenge Cup for the best kennel of four black and tan terriers.

Mrs. Howard Gould's cup for the best black pug was taken by the Swiss Mountain Kennels, Ebony Duke, which a day or two before beat Mrs. Gould's former prize winners. The Swiss Mountain Kennels sold during the day four of its prize winning Pomeranians and easily won the prize given by Mrs. W. D. Evans to the exhibitor making the largest entry. The Swiss Mountain Kennels entered over fifty dogs and carried off nearly as many prizes. One of its specials yesterday was the Suffolk Challenge Cup given by Perry Belmont for the best Pomeranian.

Mrs. G. Steadman Thomas's Ivel Doctor won the Champion Challenge Cup given by Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay for the best dog owned by a member of the Ladies' Association.

The Dreamwold Cup, offered by T. W. Lawson, for the best Blenheim, Ruby, or King Charles spaniel, was won by Miss Moeran through the Ashton Kennels. The Savoy Cup, presented by Amidown Thompson, for the best brace of American-bred toy spaniels, was won by Mrs. H. Lee Anstey's Yetsan Gertrude and Yetsan Duke, and the latter dog won the Sunbeam Challenge Cup, offered by Mrs. J. E. S. Hadden, for best American-bred toy spaniel.