

## EXAGGERATED TYPES OF BULLDOGS.

By H. W. Huntington.

**D**ESPITE the difficulty and expense of getting really good dogs, and the still greater difficulty of raising puppies, the popularity of the bulldog increases all over the country; ladies are now rapidly becoming his most ardent admirers, and no better or more gentle or faithful canine ever existed, or one with a better disposition.

It is rather, however, his characteristics as a defined type and his conformity to, or departure from, the standard of points set out in the official edicts, that I would consider upon this occasion. Off the bench, individual taste may wander where it pleases, but on the bench, breeders and dogs alike should conform to laws and standards.

From this point of view one might well be confused by the awards at the late show of the Bulldog Club. The standard of excellence adopted by the club calls for a "thick-set, broad, powerful and compact dog, with body short and well knit," the whole contour conveying "the impression of strength and activity." Yet one looked in vain for an exhibit that complied in conformation with these essential points.

Perhaps within the last decade no breed has been so tampered with as the bulldog, or so subjected to the innumerable whims of the faddist. By some he has been converted into a veritable crocodile, with a back as weak as a reed, wholly devoid of the "strength and activity" called for by the standard. By others, the entire conformation has been made subservient to "head properties," and the dog has been transformed into little else than a monstrosity. One characteristic after another has been made paramount, till many prize winners seem, to the true lover of the breed, little else than cripples.

The perfect-to-type bulldog should be massive, active, and full of life and vigor. How many can we find to-day that are? Where can we find another Britomartis, His Lordship, King Lud, British Monarch and Silena? Of a verity, not upon our present-day show benches! At the recent Bulldog Show, where were the dogs with grand underjaw, large temples, big nose, small, thin ears, well

carried—that rare point—the arched neck, short roach back with well cut-up loin, and low, set-on tail? And again, the big-boned straight foreleg, deep brisket and well-sprung rib?

In the recent show of bulldogs in New York were three distinct types in the dog classes, Katerfelto, Delaware and Baron de Merley. The first is of the old sort, with magnificent head properties, a perfect study to any fancier, with that well-turned-up jaw, so often wanting in our modern prize-winners, and grand width of chest and well-sprung ribs which made him to the severest critic the nearest approach to the club's standard of excellence.

Then we had, next, Delaware, a type almost wholly distinct from Katerfelto, possessed of a grand well-wrinkled head, but a "long and low-to-ground" body, which made him faulty behind.

The third, Baron de Merley, was of an altogether different type, a nice compact dog, with the pear-shaped body so much desired, good legs and plenty of bone, but devoid of the turn-up of the under-jaw.

With these varying and divergent, yet all winning, types at one show, the old breeder as well as the novice may well ask himself, "What is the true type, since each win and win again?" How shall the judge decide when they are brought before him to contest for the "winners' prize"? Each individual judge has his own conception of the perfect dog, irrespective of what the standard calls for. No marked and emphatic improvement can or will be seen in this breed till the club sends forth its edict that the dog shall be judged by the standard adopted. If not, of what use is a standard?

The breed has come among us to stay, and if the club will insist on a standard the entries will rival those of the St. Bernards and fox terriers, now the largest classes at any of our shows. Only the club can bring order out of chaos.

The breed is growing marvelously in popularity day by day. In 1890 the Westminster Kennel Club had an entry of nineteen, in 1891 of fifty-one, with a gradual increase up to 1899, when it scored its phenomenal entry of one hundred and fifteen.