

AKC Gazette
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MRS. E. J. Brooks

NO DOUBT by this time Christmas puppies have not only become accustomed to their new homes but also each is probably by now the piece de resistance of the family circle. We have heard very satisfactory reports from the little ambassadors sent forth to greet their new owners on Xmas morning and also have received many inquiries as to the care of puppies. Having coined this phrase some years ago and proved its worth, I very gladly repeat it here: "we treat them like babies, only we don't put lace on their pillow cases."

We are indebted to our member Alfred Brandonisi for the following authentic and carefully prepared notes.

I recently came across the stuffed body of Fisto, a Bulldog that once belonged to Ada Rehan, the famous Irish-American actress (1860-1916). Miss Rehan, in the 1890's. as Augustine Daly's leading lady, was America's most representative actress, having played in more than 150 parts, both in America and abroad.

Fisto, although well behaved in Miss Rehan's presence, was quite savage as a watch dog. During the famous Shakespearean actress' numerous engagements abroad, Fisto actually bit off the nose of a man in Dublin, and on another occasion chewed up paper currency amounting to thousands of dollars, when that money was lying about unguarded on the desk of a London theatrical office. Fisto actually committed suicide when he jumped out the window of a London theater where Miss Rehan was playing. Whether he was chasing a real or imaginary foe will never be determined. It was rather an inglorious death, but it must be remembered that the Bulldog of 60 or 70 years ago was not far removed from his ancestors of the bull-baiting days.

"Observations gleaned from Fisto's stuffed body showed that he was a dark fawn, and well set up, although in comparison with our present day type, he was rather leggy and shelly in body. Although the underjaw was undershot, it was not exaggerated and his mouth even boasted of a full muzzle. Truly, for the serious student of Bulldogs, he is a most interesting specimen of the latter part of the 19th century."

Despite present day obstacles the yearly slogan is going around-"see you at the Garden." We will be looking forward to it.

1827 Pilgrim Ave., Bronx, N.Y.