

AKC Gazette
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Mrs. E. J. BROOKS

WITH not too clear a focus on future show and breeding activities, we find solace in delving into the past. The following information was obtained from "The Bulldog" written by Robert Fulton in 1890, the same year that the Bulldog Club of America was founded. Mr. Fulton laid great stress on the Opinions of George Ure Esquire, of Dundee an authoritative breeder of Bulldogs for more than 65 years. Mr.Ure maintained that, "the great charm he attached to breeding was in the production of specimens fairly good all- round, which, if persevered in, will be more sure to produce near-to-perfection than by breeding from specimens which possess but one property in excess, either upon the dam or sire's side; because when the latter system s adopted, it invariably will be found, the more the one property is increased, the more conspicuous the other defects appear."

Also in speaking of judges Mr. Ure opines that, too often they lean too much to one property and seldom can they give satisfaction to themselves, and far less to those who desire to be informed of the cause of their decision." He berates "the breeder who goes in for the one property in excess, such as extra size of skull and excessive weight. These two properties have at all times given more disappointment to breeders than all the others combined," He states that in all his show experience he never saw "a specimen possessing extra size and measurement of skull with the rest of the head correctly finished, i.e. the greater measurement of skull the more defective the front portion of the head round the muzzle is sure to appear, as well as the layback of nose and the form of the lower jaw. Then again, as regards excessive weight of body, the more the weight, the greater the defects of structural formation."

Although these observations were in use more than 100 years ago, present day breeders would do well to heed them and avoid straying to far afield from the standard.

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