

HUNTING DOGS

By Walter A. Dyer

Warren H. Miller's "Airedale, Setter, and Hound" was one of the very few books, out of many dealing with dogs, which treated the subject of training the hunting dog with anything like adequacy. But there was still room for a more practical and comprehensive volume, and Mr. Miller has now written it. It is not especially a book for the sentimental dog lover, nor for the bench-show fancier either. It is a specialist's book—a book for the sportsman.

With a book of this sort, a brief résumé of the contents is, perhaps, the most helpful sort of review. Mr. Miller begins with history, and outlines the interesting development of the hunting breeds—the pointer from a dog of the hound type and the setter from the spaniel. He tells of the rise of these breeds to popularity, and explains the significance of the Laverack and Llewellyn strains of setters. The notes on the origin and development of the greyhound family, the foxhounds and beagles, and the spaniels are of equal interest.

A chapter is devoted to the leading strains of bird dogs—chiefly the

pointers and setters. These strains have been carefully bred for many generations, for special uses such as work on grouse, quail, water fowl, etc., and for the great sport of the field trials. English, Irish, and Gordon setters and pointers are characterized and the genealogy and pedigrees of famous strains are offered, until the uninitiated reader might be bewildered by the loftiness of their aristocracy.

The chapter on hounds is perhaps even more enlightening. The basset and harrier are not popular in America, but we have the foxhounds, the beagle, and the coonhound. I am glad Mr. Miller devotes so much space to the coonhound, for thus far the breed has enjoyed neither stud-book nor recognition by the American Kennel Club, and very little has been written about it. Yet it is a perfectly good American breed, distinct and useful. Originating from a cross of bloodhound and foxhound, the coonhound of the Southern States has been bred for over a hundred years for performance rather than for quality, and has won for itself a permanent place in the esteem of the sportsman if not of the fancier. Mr. Miller also touches upon another unrecognized breed, the old trailing hound of the North. The chapter includes the lengthy and complex history of the two types of foxhounds—English and American—and their smaller cousins, the beagles.

Another chapter is devoted to special field dogs: the wire-haired pointing griffon, recently imported from France and already winning its way with us; the Chesapeake Bay dog, another native American with an unsurpassed reputation as a water-fowl retriever; the quaint Irish water spaniel; the retrievers, English and Labrador; the field and cocker span-

iels; and the Airedale terrier, not usually rated as a hunting dog, but capable of learning almost anything and a wonder on bear and other big game.

Perhaps the most valuable chapter in the book is the one giving in practical detail successful methods of breaking and training the sporting dog. There are also chapters on the rearing, feeding, and housing of puppies, on breeding, on kennel construction, and on canine diseases and their treatment.

Many of the dog books on the market are hack jobs. This one is not. Mr. Miller contributes to the subject much original research and the results of personal experience. It is authoritative and well put together, and is not lacking in that sympathy for the four-footed huntsman which will appeal to every man whose ideal of sport is a dog and a gun and a day on marsh or heather.

The American Hunting Dog. By Warren H. Miller. George H. Doran Company.