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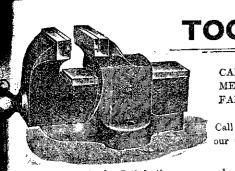
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The Nature Column.

(By "Student.")

("Student" will be pleased to receive notes on any branch of Natural History. Observations on birds, insects, plants, etc., will be equally welcome. If using a pen-name, will correspondents please enclose real name and address.)

At the present time the Town Engineer's

staff is engaged in finding more water for the ever increasing demands of the town. Quite a number of bores have been sunk at depths varying from one hundred to one hundred and twenty feet or thereabouts. The bores at the Waterworks appear to be the deepest on the reclamation where the top of the bore is at about tide level the deepest needed was I believe about forty feet. So far as indications go it would seem that the strata slopes gently out to the West. In the patch of trees to the north of the Water Tower a new bore of large diameter is about to be sunk. Some months ago a shaft was dug to a depth of some fifty feet and water comes into this plentifully. Just a few feet away is another six inch bore and shaft from which water has been pumped for some time. This bore strange to say does not produce water so readily as the new shaft. The tower hill is as far as I can ascertain some seventy feet above the tide level. Water flows from the bores without pumping at about 60 feet from the surface. It is just possible therefore, that our town supply comes from the Wai. hopai. It would prove very interesting if experiments could be made in a bore to find if any regular fluctations occur in the water level. Or if during seasons of flood the level of the water at the Tower is increased. The Waihopai takes its rise near Mortain Mains and flows nearly east and west. Considering the extent of the watershed and the annual rainfall the amount of water flowing in this stream is not very large. It is therefore within the bounds of possibility that our water does not travel very far. If the water does not come from the Waihopai is may come from a more northerly direction. The Makazewa and its tributary, the Titipua, rising about 4 or 5 miles from Mataura, flows in a more or less westerly direction to the sea and it would almost seem more likely that the water supply comes from the neighbourhood of these streams. The country to the north of them is hilly and composed of hard rock. Most of the local streams rise at no great distance from the Mataura River and flow from east to west, and this indicates that the general slope of the country lies in the same direction. As the Southland Plains belong to the youngest formation the Pleistocene and consist mostly of gravels and clays it would be reasonable to suppose that the water-bearing strata slopes back towards the town of Mataura, It may go right to the Mataura River. The Mataura River skirts high country to the sea. To the west of Invercargill a ridge runs from the Bluff to the Longwoods. The deep bore proved that Invercargill is situated over a deep basin made up of silts which suggest an estuarine formation, and which have been proved to extend for at least 700 feet deep.

Summing the foregoing up it appears that the water supply most likely comes from the coast and soaks into the gravels at not very great distance from town. The only alternative is that the water comes from the north being supplied in part by the Oreti River. This would imply that the strata dips more from the north than from the east, but this does not seem likely. A bore 150 feet in depth at Kew went through sand for the most of the way and did not touch water.

Old residents of North and East Invercargill claim that the Tower well has caused their wells to dry up and I know of some deep wells in which this seems to be the case.

The town water when it arrives at the surface impregnated with iron pyries, and sometimes smells very badly. At times an algae grows luxuriantly in the tank at the Power House.

Though both "A" and "Jacques" have talked a lot about telepathy they have given us no definition of what it is supposed to be.

If telepathy mean the ability to communicate an idea to another person without using ordinary means of communication I believe it is possible. At one time I assisted in the following experiment. Two persons placed their hands on the shoulders of another person who was blind. folded, and mentally directed him to find an article which had been hidden. The object was hidden in such a way that the searcher could not be directed to it by pressure on his shoulders. Generally the experiment was successful, though there were a fair per centage of failures. Would "A" or "Jacques" call this telepathy? I have also noticed on many occasions that two people will say precisely the same thing at the same time. Is this a mere coincidence?

Kennel Notes

MISTAKES MADE BY NOVICES.

Among the many mistakes made by novices the most common is that of supposing that there is any difficulty in getting a dog into show form. There are, of course, exceptions to every rule, and one sometimes comes across a dog that persistently refuses to look well, even when all proper care is taken of him; he is what is known as a "bad doer." But the average healthy dog can be easily got into show form, which, after all, is only a synonym for perfect health.

DO NOT FATTEN DOGS.

The most ordinary mistake made by a beginner is to fatten his dog. Now, a fat dog is not wanted in a show. Even the toy dogs are not fattened up. Extravagant decoration of their cages is permitted, and in this way the natural desire of a woman to heap kindnessess on her pets is gratified. But that is all. The pet dog who has never been shown is too often made so fat that his life is a misery to him.

CONDITION.

Having decided, then, that the dog must not be fat we come to the question of what flesh he ought to carry. Some breeds may be fairly plump; some should be "hard," with scarcely any superfluous flesh on their bones; some should have well-developed muscles; some need have none, at least none that are prominent. Take the case of a fox terrier for instance, a dog that was primarily intended for sport. If you get your terrier at all fat he will not be in show form, but in your desire to get him into hard condition you may speil him in another way. You may possibly think that the easiest way of reducing his flesh and substituting muscle is to give him some gallops behind a bicycle or horse. There is no surer way of spoiling the dog. A terrier so exercised will put on muscle on his shoulders to such an extent that he will get what is known in canine circles as "wide in front," which is a grave fault in a terrier, and, indeed, in most dogs.

The terrier should have just enough exercise to get him into good health, and do not forget that part of this exercise must take place on the road, so that his nails may be worn down properly. Do not try to gallop him about. A scamper will do no harm, of course, but do not follow the plan adopted by an enterprising young fancier who thought he was doing the right thing by following the methods used by trainers of greyhounds. In this case, a boy held the terriers, the owner ran down the road for half a mile, and the terriers were slipped to him one by one. Such a training is all very well for greyhounds who are to run at a meeting-and with them the best method is to make them start on the level or down a slope, and finish up a hill-but it is quite out of place with terriers. When you see that your dog is in good health, and that he keeps in good health without the need of medicine, he is having enough exercise.

Some dogs are naturally very shy and nervous, and one that has such a disposition is by no means a good dog, for show nurposes. You will have to exercise great care in his training; otherwise you will break his spirit, and a dog that looks at all cowed in the ring stands a poor chance of being judged according to his merits. You must not blame the judge for this. The judge cannot be expected to form an opinion of a dog that resolutely tries to slink away when he is in the ring with other dogs. Some men have been so care. ful about their dogs not being at all cowed, that all training-as far as education is concerned-has been omitted.

TO ALL R.S. ASSOCIATIONS.

Reciprocity with overseas branches of he Returned Soldiers' Association.

Quite recently the Returned Soldiers of Western Samoa formed themselves into the 'Returned Soldiers' Association of Western Samoa." As this Association is not numerically strong enough to become affili. ated to the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association, it has asked for reciprocity between the New-Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association and itself. At the last meeting of the Standing Sub-Committee of the Dominion Executive, held on September 7th, it was decided :-

(a). That reciprocity be established be. tween the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association and the Western Samoan Association and that each pledge itself to help the other if such help is not counter to the general policy of either Associa-

(b). That financial members of the one Association can transfer to the other with. out payment of a further subscription for the year for which they are paid up, such member however, to produce evidence of payment.

Arrangements like the above have been made with the Fijian and Australian Associations.

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