

## SNARES—continued

was the "*hausse-piez*," an engine that caught the wolf or other beast in a running noose and hoisted it into the air where it dangled helplessly. Another and quite as cruel device were the "*aiguilles*" or needles (not unknown in England), which consisted of two or more needle-shaped pieces of wood, sharpened at both ends and two inches long, doubled up or twisted and fastened by a horsehair in such a manner that when the wolf swallowed the piece of meat in which the needles were secreted the horsehair fastening would give way and the needles spring apart and pierce the intestines, and cause the beast's death. A similar cruel contrivance was to substitute pieces of broken glass for the needles in the bait.

**SPANIEL.** It is difficult to say at what date these dogs were first introduced into our country; we only know that by the second half of the 16th century spaniels were a common dog in England. In Dr. Caius's time the breed was "in full being." He mentions land spaniels, setters, and water spaniels, besides the small spaniels which were kept as pet and lap dogs. That the breed was not then a recent importation we may infer from the fact that when speaking of the water spaniel and giving the derivation of the name, Dr. Caius says: "Not that England wanted *suche kinde of dogges* (for they are naturally bred and ingendered in this country). But because they beare the general and common name of these dogs synce the time when they were first brought over out of Spaine."

It has been asserted that the spaniel was mentioned in the ancient Welsh Laws, and certainly in the English translation of these the word *Colwyn* has been rendered spaniel (Venedotian Code, p. 137; Gwentian Code, p. 357; Welsh Laws, p. 691), and building on this foundation a theory has been propounded that the spaniel reached us through Wales, that the Gaels, who conquered Wales and Cornwall had peopled Ireland about B.C. 900, that this branch of the Celtic race came from Spain and probably brought their sporting dogs, *i.e.*, spaniels, with them. (Dalziel i. pp. 383-385.) But unfortunately for this theory it is very uncertain that spaniel is the exact equivalent of Colwyn. A Welsh scholar informs us that Colwyn is a more general term than is implied by spaniel, and in his opinion means a kind of deer-hound. In Silvan Evan's Dictionary of the Welsh Language we find: "In the Welsh laws Colwyn probably denotes a species of dog of superior breed being classed with tracker and greyhound, and is rendered spaniel by the translator." Following this a reference is given in which Colwyn is used in reference to a mastiff, or for a dog in general. From this we must conclude that the breed represented by a Colwyn cannot be identified with certainty. On such uncertain premises as these it would be hopeless

<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact the Duke of York did not copy G. de F. quite so slavishly as Mr. Arkwright imputes, for (see pp. 66-67) there are two short original interpolations of his in this chapter.

to try and prove the existence of spaniels in Wales at the time these ancient laws were written in the century preceding the Conquest, much less is there any support for the theory of the introduction of these dogs to Ireland some eighteen or nineteen hundred years earlier!

The chapter in the M. of G. on this dog, being translated from G. de F., unfortunately throws no light on the history of the spaniel in England, although we imagine that had there been no such hound in our Island at the time, the Duke would have made some such remark as he has in other parts of his book of their being a "manner of" hound as "men have beyond the sea, but not as we have here in England."

Mr. Arkwright in his recent book on the pointer imagines that the Duke of York never saw a spaniel because he does no more than translate from the French of Gaston; he says: "That the Duke copied slavishly, without having seen a spaniel at all (let alone a setting spaniel) I feel pretty certain from the absence of one original word of his own on the subject, and from the silence of other succeeding writers, for even Dame Juliana Barnes in the 'Master of the Game' (1486) beyond mentioning that there were certain dogs called 'spaniels' leaves the subject severely alone and the very existence of such dogs had probably been revealed to her only by the perusal of a 'Master of Game' earlier than her own."

Then even if it were the fact<sup>1</sup> that the Duke of York only copied slavishly from Gaston without making an original remark we can scarcely accept it as a proof that he had never seen a spaniel. We can scarcely suppose that the Master of the King's Game had never seen a stag, a greyhound or a running hound, yet he copied Gaston's chapters about these animals just as slavishly as he did the one on the spaniel. The Duke, on the other hand, had had every opportunity of knowing a great deal about spaniels during his travels in Spain and long residence on its borders, and it would be a most astonishing thing if he had not seen these Spaniels or *chiens couchants*, so well known at his time both in Spain and France if not in England. The Duke had also a Spanish mother, and he could scarcely have missed seeing the most commonly used hawking and fowling dog.

The fact that Dame Juliana Barnes leaves spaniels "severely alone" and only mentions that there were such dogs, is also no proof of their non-existence in England in the 15th century. We know that there were mongrels and mastiffs in her time, but she does no more than mention these in her list of the names of hounds. The greyhound alone is favoured with a description which was also by no means an original one (see Appendix: Greyhound). She does not seem to have copied from the Duke of York's "Master of the Game," as she neither followed his sequence nor slavishly kept to his list of hounds, as will be seen by the following comparison.