

By W. P. COCKS, Esq.

(Continued from the last Report.)

CATS.

“E'en now I see descending from his throne,
Thy venerable Cat, O! Whittington.”

“The passion for animal food, or rather the desire to destroy a living animal, is the quality which makes the Cat valuable to man. Domestication does not extinguish the passion; for the pampered inmate of the parlour does not forget its nightly prowl through every part of a house where mice can come; and the consequence is that we are, to a great degree, unmolested by these troublesome visitors.”—*Menag.*

Cats were brought into England, from the island of Cyprus, by some foreign merchants, who came hither for tin. In the old Welch laws a kitten from its birth till it could see, was valued at a penny; when it began to mouse, two pence; and after it had killed mice, at four pence, which was the price of a calf! Whosoever killed the King's (Howel Dha) cat, for his fine and atonement was to hold her up by the tip of the tail, so that her nose touched the ground, and heap up wheat till the body, to the tail's tip, was covered. Wild cats were kept by our ancient Kings for hunting. The officers who had charge of these cats seem to have had appointments of equal consequence with the masters of the king's hounds; they were called “Catatores.”

FELIS CATUS, WILD CAT, *Linn.*

Head round; visage short; pupils contracting longitudinally; ears moderate; fur yellowish-grey, with longitudinal and transverse stripes of black; tail long, thick, cylindrical, truncated, annulated with black,—tip entirely black; toes five before, four behind, claws retractile; six incisors, four canines; four grinders above, three below, on each side; nose, lips, and soles of feet black.

The period of gestation fifty-three to sixty-three days; generally three litters in a year, each consisting of from four to five kittens, blind for nine days.

Var. DOMESTIC CAT.

Tabby. The male of this variety is a noble looking creature; considered to be the nearest approach to the wild cat.

Tortoiseshell. Fur short, fine, glossy; back, sides, and tail beautifully clouded with shades of black, buff, and reddish-yellow, on a white ground; under surface of neck, abdomen, &c., white; nose and lips delicate flesh-colour; soles whitish.

There are several males prowling about in the neighbourhood with yellowish-coloured fur, clouded or striped with the same colour a few shades darker; tail annulated, two or three white rings, tip white. The female, according to Desmarest, is alone spotted with the three colours.

Negro. Fur short, fine, glossy, entirely black; nose, lips, and soles of feet black.

The fur of a male, lately in the possession of a friend, was of a sooty-brown colour, with black stripes; nose, lips, and soles of feet jet black. Cats with black and white fur are the “Smiths” of the place.

White. Fur short, rather coarse; nose, lips, and soles of the feet dirty flesh-colour, with a shade of grey.

The fur of this animal is generally very dirty.

Angora. Fur white, long, thick, fine, bushy on the neck and chest; tail large, bushy; irides bright light blue; nose and lips delicate rose-colour; soles of the feet flesh tint; ears small, erect.

The true Angora cat is rare; a variety with long and rather coarse hair (cross breed) may be occasionally met with in the town. The animal described was about four or five months old, and belonged to a gentleman in the neighbourhood.

Chartreuse. Fur rather long, thick, glossy, dark slate-grey, with black markings; tail thick, tapering; legs and tail annulated; nose, lips, and soles of feet bluish-black.

This cat (female) was brought to Falmouth by a Captain of a French brig, and given to a shopkeeper in the town.

Tail-less. This variety is very rare in Falmouth; but I have been informed that it is not uncommon in some parts of the county.

“A cat, belonging to Professor Coventry of Edinburgh, lost its tail by accident when it was young; and subsequently had many litters of kittens, and in every litter there was one or more without a tail.”—*Anderson.*

I met with a cat, in Middle Terrace, with a twisted tail, about two inches in length, rather bushy, and like the letter S; born with the defect.

DOGS.

Indigenous;—and occasional visitors from ships arriving at Falmouth.

“The poor dog! in life the firmest friend,
The first to welcome, foremost to defend;
Whose honest heart is still his master's own—
Who labours, fights, lives, breathes, for him alone.”—*Byron.*

“The dog may be said to be the only animal whose fidelity is unshaken; who always knows his master, and the friends of the family; who distinguishes a stranger as soon as he arrives; who understands his own name, and the voices of the domestics; who confides not in himself: who calls on his lost master by cries and lamentations; who in long journeys, which he has travelled but once, remembers and finds out the road: in fine, the dog is the only animal whose natural talents are conspicuous and whose education is always successful. Of all animals, the dog is also most susceptible of impressions, most easily modified by moral causes, and most subject to alterations occasioned by physical influence.”—*Buffon.*

Dogs, properly so called.

Eye horizontal, pupils circular; ears pointed or rounded, pendulous; teeth, six cutting and two canine, in each jaw, ten molars in the upper, fourteen in the lower jaw; tongue soft, smooth; five toes on the fore feet, sometimes a fifth on the tursus; claws hollowed, non-retractile, some have the feet partially webbed; tail curved upwards, bent towards the left.

Period of gestation sixty-three days; four to six are produced at a litter; born blind; attain their growth in two years, and seldom live beyond twenty years.

WOLF DOGS.

Fur thick, long; ears sharp, erect, or sub-erect; nose pointed; stature large; colour white, black, grey, &c.

Newfoundland.

The Newfoundland dog has been famed for his aquatic powers. Not long since ten of these useful creatures were imported into Paris, and employed in watching the banks of the Seine; experienced trainers being daily employed in teaching them to draw from the water stuffed figures of men and children; handsome kennels have been erected for them on the bridges, and they have already done great service, by saving many individuals from a watery death.

Labrador. Sometimes seen on shore with sailors.

Esquimaux. I met a sailor with this animal near Capt. Bull's gate; it belonged to the Captain of a vessel then lying in the Carrick Road. It was active, playful, restless; fur rather long, fine; tail flowing, bushy, carried obliquely over the back; ears short, pointed, erect. The man informed me that it was about six months old.

GREYHOUNDS.

Fur short, smooth; ears small, pointed, pendulous; snout long, narrow; chest deep; body curved; abdomen drawn up; tail long, slender.

Daniel in his Rural Sports says “that a brace of greyhounds, in Lincolnshire, hunted a hare for upwards of four miles, in the short space of twelve minutes; during the course there were several turns, which very considerably increased the space traversed; the hare became exhausted, and dropped dead before the greyhounds touched her.”

Italian greyhound.

The last of the race in Falmouth died about seven or eight years ago.

Common greyhound.

MONGREL.

Lurcher.

The Lurcher is essentially a poacher's dog, so that any person known to possess one becomes a suspected person.

HOUNDS.

Fur short; ears large, rounded, pendulous; muzzle long, deep; nose large; tail blunt, turned up; colour white and brown, in spots, or white and black.

Bloodhound.

Var. Foxhound.

Colonel Thornton's celebrated foxhound, called “Merkin,” ran four miles in seven minutes.

Harrier.

Beckford says, “Harriers to be good, like all other hounds, must be kept to their own game. If you run fox with them, you spoil them: hounds cannot be perfect unless used to one scent and one style of hunting.”

Beagle.

The well bred Beagle, of the proper size, should not exceed ten or eleven

inches in height. Colonel Hardy's cry of Beagles amounted to ten or eleven couple, and were always carried to and from the field in a pair of panniers, upon a horse's back.

Turnspit.

"a dog that turns the spit,
Bestirs himself, and plies his feet
To climb the wheel; but all in vain,
His own weight brings him back again,
And still he's in the self-same place
Where, at his setting out, he was."—*Iudibras.*

Coach-dog.

Pointer.

"It is said that a Spanish monk first observed in the wild dog of Andalusia, the trick of pausing before the spring upon its prey. As this pause was longer than in any other animal, the idea was at once suggested that, by training, this habit might be made useful. He accordingly tamed a number of these dogs, and, finding them somewhat deficient in size, docility, and scent, crossed them upon the nobler species of the hound; and hence the pointer was derived."—*Webber.*

"Dash, a well trained and fine pointer, belonging to Colonel Thornton, was sold for £160's worth of Champagne, and Burgundy, one hog'shead of Claret, and an elegant gun."—*Sportsman's Repost.*

Setter. Fur long.

The Setter was trained to the net by Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, in 1535; but in modern days the use of the fowling-piece has superseded the net.

Spaniel.

Var. Springer.

King Charles.

Cocker.

Blenheim.

"King Charles's and Blenheim Spaniels have been known in London to fetch the price of from 150 to 200 guineas."—*Richardson.*

The group of Spaniels seem to have been originally from Spain.

Great Water-dog.

This fine animal was landed at Falmouth, by a party of sailors, from a Danish vessel, and "left a stranger in a strange land," either by design or accident.

Poodle.

Sir John Sebright observes that "although there are many breeds of Water-dogs, varying in size and appearance, from the large Newfoundland dog to the Poodle, yet there is one propensity common to all,—they will fetch and carry, or bring the game to their masters, with very little or no teaching."

TERRIERS.

Fur long; head round; ears sub-erect; muzzle pointed; eyes large, prominent.

English, or Smoothed-hair.

"A small well marked English Terrier, under seven pounds weight, will, if as good as he looks, fetch from five to ten guineas."—*Richardson.*

The celebrated dog "Billy" killed 100 rats in less than seven minutes.

Scotch, or Wired-hair.

Dr. Vigurs has a beautiful specimen of the variety called "Dinmont's Terrier."

Isle of Skye.

A specimen of this interesting but queer-phizzed animal in the possession of C. Bullmore, Esq.

MASTIFFS.

Fur short; head large; ears moderate, pendant; muzzle short, thick, truncated; neck and loins strong; legs strong.

Mastiff. Occasionally a fine specimen in company with sailors.

Var. This dog certainly is a noble looking creature,—said to be the true "St. Bernard." In the possession of A. Fox, Esq.

"A good many years ago a pestilence made its appearance amongst the dogs of the Convent on the Great St. Bernard, and all were destroyed save one single specimen. Under these circumstances, the monks had no alternative but to cross the breed, which they did with the Spanish or Pyrenean wolf-dog; hence arose the race of dogs ordinarily known as St. Bernards." *Richardson.*

Bulldog. The brindled variety; very rare.

Bull-terrier.

Order.—HOLOTHURIADÆ. Family.—SYNAPTÆ.

Genus.—CHIRODOTA, *Eschscholtz.*

Chirodota digitata, Mont. (Plate III., Figs. 1, 2, 3.) Body elongated, cylindrical, vermiform, contractile; skin coriaceous, thick, furnished with suckers, embedded; minute papillæ, numerous: colour, light reddish-brown. Mouth terminal, of a pearlaceous tint, surrounded with twelve stout digitated tentacula: circular fibres of body numerous; longitudinal fasciæ five; surface varnished, slippery: animal sluggish in confinement. The specimens procured measured from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in length, and about a quarter of an inch in diameter. Found in the blue mud and sand, Helford; plentiful in particular localities; Falmouth, very rare.

—, *var.*, Cocks. (Plate III., Figs. 4, 5, 6.) Body elongated, vermiform, cylindrical, hyaline, contractile; skin thin, soft, irritable, adhesive; suckers embedded, reddish-brown; papillæ numerous: mouth and disc light straw-colour; tentacula twelve, long, filiform, thirteen digitated pinnæ on each tentaculum: circular fibres numerous; five longitudinal fasciæ: viscera apparent through the transparent skin: restless in confinement. Length of specimens procured from 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, by 1-16th to 1-8th of an inch in diameter. Found in hard and stony soil; Helford, scarce; Falmouth, very rare.

I have kept them alive for months in sea-water procured from Helford or Gwyllyn-vase, but they invariably broke into fragments as soon as water from Green Bank was thrown into the glass.

ARUM COCKSII, *Vigurs.*

(Plate III., Fig. 7 to 12.) Body vermiform, long, attenuated, hollow, contractile; covered with several rows of elongated tubular suckers, with terminal discs, retractile: mouth

terminal, furnished with a delicate transparent conical membrane, with central aperture, truncated: base fixed: circular and longitudinal fibres numerous, apparent: ovarian appendages, external: colour reddish-purple spots on white ground: length from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and about 1-18th of an inch in diameter. Found attached to stones, low-water-mark, Gwyllyn-vase.

The young are free until the eleventh or twelfth day; at this period they then attach themselves to the glass or stone, and remain fixed during life. From the ova of those in confinement, ten months, I have reared a dozen or more young ones. The first specimen I found was in the year 1844, and since that period I have procured dozens from the same locality. Specimens alive and dead have been sent to some of the first naturalists of the age in this country and on the Continent. Mr. Joshua Alder informed me, Dec. 28th, 1853, that "Sars had made a genus of it in 1849 under the name of *Myristhela Arctica*." Mr. Grosse found it on the Devonshire coast in the year 1852.

JANUARY. A splendid male specimen of the Crested Shag (*Phalacrocorax graculus*, Flem.), in spring plumage, was shot by Mr. Williams, near Pennance point, Swanpool: the head was adorned with a beautiful plume of feathers—a perfect "toupet."

FEBRUARY. The Sea-snail (*Liparis vulgaris*, Flem.), $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, was found under a stone, low-water-mark, Trefusis point, by the son of the Rev. Mr. Yescombe.

MARCH. *Zylophaga dorsalis*, Turt. Nearly one hundred specimens of this rare shell (animals alive) were procured by Miss Vigurs from Trawl refuse.

JULY. *Chiton asellus*, Chimnitz. From trawl refuse, by Miss Vigurs.

„ 14th. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa melanura*, Selby) was shot at the Lizard by the Rev. Mr. Jackson of Grade. In the possession of Mr. Chapman. Very rare in this neighbourhood.

Description of the Alepus parasita, found in Falmouth.

Vide Polytechnic Report for 1849, page 77.

Body ovate, compressed, covered by a firm cartilaginous sac, semi-pellucid, greyish: the internal membrane reflected on the edges of ventral opening, ciliated, channelled; aperture one fourth the length of sac: cirri slender, short, articulated, hispid,—anteriorly white, posteriorly reddish-brown: their motion was slow, but regular. Seminal tube long, slender, curved: peduncle short, rather stout, hollow; it contained a jelly-like substance, of a light bluish-white colour. I was unable to detect ovæ, although a very powerful microscope was employed.

Right or Left handed Ratchet-spanner.

BY MR. WILLIAM BOSUSTOW, PERRAN FOUNDRY.

THIS instrument, which is intended for use in cramped or difficult places, where the ordinary spanner is not available, is represented in Plate III., figs. 13 and 14. Inside a fork, at the end of the usual lever, is placed a ratchet wheel, *a*, shown by dotted lines in fig. 13, and again by fig. 15. This wheel is kept in its position by the studs, *b, b*, which enter a groove turned in the face of it. It is pierced by a slightly taper hole, which also goes through the forked end of the lever, and is intended to hold chucks of any required shape or size for turning backward or forward the nut or screw which is to be operated upon: different forms for the chucks are represented by figs. 16, 17, 18, the slightly tapering shanks, *c, c*, being grooved to correspond with the projecting stud, *d*, on the inside of the ratchet wheel. The ratchet itself, *e*, which is double and shown by dotted lines in fig. 13, is also placed within the fork of the lever, and may be moved laterally to a small extent round its axis by the spring catch, *f*, which acts on a V shaped spring, *g*, placed between the axis of the catch and the inside of the ratchet. When the catch is in the same direction or parallel with the length of the lever, both of the palls of the ratchet are free from the indented portions of the wheel, which can then turn in either direction; but when the catch is placed obliquely, as in fig. 13, one pall of the ratchet enters one of the indentations of the wheel, which, with its chuck, can then only move in one direction, and thus may be used to turn a nut or screw.

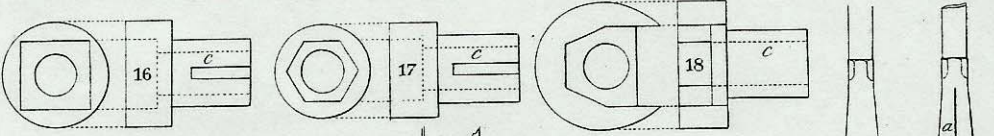
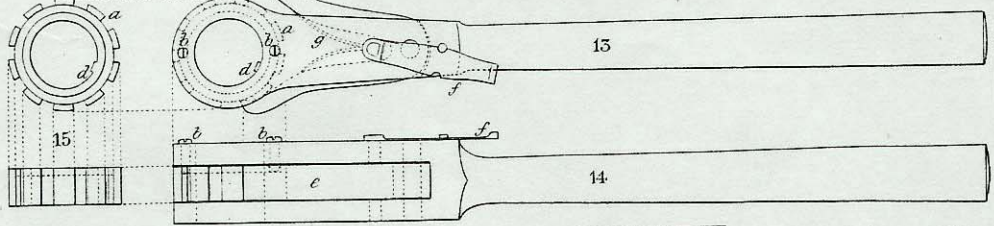
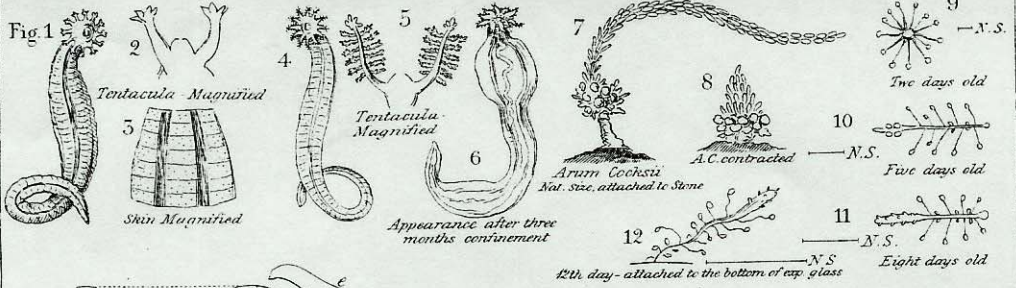


Fig 19. Scale 1/12

