attended with less risk to all parties—they were valuable hounds and in tip-top condition. Safe and sound, in due time they arrived in Grosvenor Place, and there secured in the well-arranged kennels so well-known to most of us. The Baron was quickly informed of the success of the commission, and consulted as to how they should be forwarded to Germany.

During the interval of correspondence all went well, they were highly admired by the best judges, and acknowledged to be exactly suited for the intended sport. One morning, however, Mr. Tattersall was called in a great hurry by the man under whose vigilant eye the dogs had long thriven in their seclusion; his excitement and countenance clearly denoted something amiss. "If you please sir," said he (servants always begin thus if anything goes wrong), "there be three couples and a half o'them hounds gone." "Gone!" exclaimed hismaster, "why what do you mean?" "They be got hout through the roof, I thinks, or else they be stolen." Mr. Tattersall was fairly stumped; there was nothing to do but to go and inspect the premises, which he immediately did. Staring you in the face sure enough there was a large hole in the roof, the tiles had been torn off, and there was an open space large enough for a man to walk in at. Without loss of time every endeavour was made to recover them, printed bills were posted everywhere, rewards offered, and the dog-stealers consulted, but without avail; no tidings could be gleaned of them, not the slightest clue hit upon, not a hint concerning them obtained, and the worthy auctioneer reduced to the unutterable and chap-fallen, looked like one who had lost his commission and was just cashiered.

Something like twenty days after this, all hope of recovery being given up, and the subject nearly dropped, Mr. Tattersall received the following letter, or as near as possible one to this effect from the old huntsman in Drumfriesshire; "A few nights ago we were disturbed by the barking and howling of some hounds at the kennel gate, which caused me to get up and see to it, when to my great surprise and wonder, I was startled to find they was three couples and a half of them as I sold to you and shipped at Leith. They were in a terrible state, worn and torn, starved and foot-sore, hardly able to stand; they are now recovering under careful nursing. Would you be good enough to send particulars of their escape? Their arrival here has caused the utmost astonishment, we can scarcely believe our eyes." And well might he say so, for this marvellous instance of that almost supernatural instinct and sagacity, which has been often made the theme of some of the most learned essays and controversies, I believe was never equalled—certainly never surpassed. It is impossible to reason on it, and as the difficulties present themselves, one dare hardly think of it, not one inch of the ground they traversed in this terrible pilgrimage had they ever before seen; they came by sea, out of sight of land, no hill or dale, or house, or road to mark their whereabouts. What then was their guide? By what good star were they led?

Their affection for home, the undying courage and endurance they displayed, and their unheard-of intelligence were fully appreciated and rewarded. They were by mutual consent ever after retained and valued in that country they had so nobly struggled to reach, and other hounds sent in their place equally suited for the required purpose. But one of the most extraordinary facts in connection with these wandering foxhounds remains to be told; on strict inquiry throughout the counties and route they were supposed to have crossed, no one could be found who had ever seen or heard of them on their perilous journey.

Southampton. A. H. B.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### ENGLISH SETTERS.

Sir,—A correspondent in your last impression, signing himself "A Judge," observes that I argue *strongly* against awarding prizes to cross-bred setters, and that the case is not so clear as I seem to think, and he goes on to say that judicious crosses in breeding animals tend to success, but he does not favour us with an explanation of what he considers *judicious* crossing, which, perhaps, he will do, as I shall be very glad to learn something useful in setter breeding, which thirty years' practice has not taught me, and I must confess myself ignorant on the subject of judicious setter crossing, as to where it should begin and where it should end. I have tried it, but never found it answer.

He attempts to justify the breeding by mongrel setters, by stating that greyhounds have been crossed with the bull-dog, thorough-bred horses with the Arab, pointers with foxhounds, and shorthorns in some way; but I am not aware of any such crosses having taken place within his probable experience and knowledge, and therefore the fact (unless it be so) cannot be used as an argument in favour of direct and recent crosses in setters of even more inconsistent kinds than the bull-dog, which might be desirable, and tend to cure timidity and gun shyness, which some of the very choice prize dogs and their stock are troubled with. What breeder of racehorses, I would ask (except an amateur) would try a cross with our present pure breed, or use one for stud purposes with any recent cross, or a greyhound or shorthorn by the same rule?

From the argument used by your correspondent, it does not appear he can ever have been a breeder of either horses, shorthorns, or setters; but if he has, I much wish he would give me the benefit of his experience generally in such matters. I have yet to learn that a recent direct cross of Newfoundland, bloodhound, or pointer, can produce setter blood without many subsequent crosses with the true setter, which the next generation of exhibitors (if any one) might get the benefit of, certainly the present cannot expect to do so. There are at the present time four champion prizeholders with recent crosses in them, and a fifth may be added at the next show. Will your correspondent kindly inform me how these dogs and bitches can with advantage be bred by? If he, as a judge, advocates dogs for prizes thus bred, he should first establish a stud book, showing, as far as possible, the different crosses in each animal; otherwise, it is not at all improbable that dog and bitch of the same, or some other ludicrous cross, might be put together, the offspring of which may be better imagined than described.

The objections I have before made on this subject have brought forth letters in reply and justification of the system complained of from several setter judges, by which it clearly shows there is a considerable majority clinging to mongrel setters, as is further confirmed by their awards. It can only be accounted for by the fact that, having so long adhered to the erroneous principle, they are reluctant to admit their errors, but they should recollect that it is never too late to mend.

I regret I feel bound to question their judgments, as being opposed to common sense and reason rules, and I hope to be excused for having done so. The value of the opinions of the cross-bred setter division I leave for practical men to judge of, but I contend that to appoint judges who uphold and publicly proclaim their preference for cross-bred setters will be destructive of the breed of those dogs as well as a polite hint for the owners of the best bred setters to keep them at home, and a death-blow to setter shows. Another Judge.

### KILLING FLEAS.

Sir,—Mr. Gerald Fitzgerald will find benzine mixed with a thirtieth part of carbolic acid the most efficacious and harmless means of removing these troublesome pests; it may be poured or sponged over furniture without injury to colour or texture, but it must be used carefully on French polished or varnished articles, for this the benzine removes. They should be carefully wiped with flannel and linseed oil containing a fiftieth part of carbolic acid well shaken up, this will not injure the polish. The smell of both these liquids is very unpleasant, but will evaporate in a few days or weeks; oil of turpentine will answer the purpose of the benzine, but is more expensive, less effectual, and the smell, though less unpleasant at the time, is longer in going away. Another good recipe for destroying fleas, or other domestic annoyances, consists of a compound prepared as follows:—Dissolve three ounces of beeswax in a pint of oil of turpentine, and add to this one ounce of white arsenic or corrosive sublimate; shake or stir well and apply with a brush. This will permanently keep insects from attacking furniture; but will render it poisonous: it is often used. The other compounds by evaporating will only destroy or scare away present annoyances.

C. O. Groom-Napier.

Sir,—The dog-faced baboon having just read Mr. Fitzgerald's interesting communication to Land and Water regarding the riddance of fleas "imported by dogs," devotes the few moments of leisure which a long and laborious chase has afforded him to give the results of a life-long experience. First prepare a basin of water of sufficient depth to drown the liveliest flea. Proceed to take off your coat and other garments (if any), and search for the game. If at first unsuccessful, examine your own epidermis, or that of a friend. The latter process cannot fail if you are one of us, and have not yet developed into the baser species "man." Having captured the vermin, hold him fast between the forefinger and thumb, and then gently but firmly submerge him. The submersion must continue until death is produced by asphyxia; and the process cannot fail to afford much innocent enjoyment to the younger members of the family. Some adepts crack the adult insect between their incisors; but this mode, though more alluring, is hardly so expeditious. If, however, you will call at the address I have given any Sunday afternoon, you may witness the process to perfection. Should the above methods prove unavailing, suspension of the canine delinquent cannot fail to prove effectual. Trusting that your efforts may be crowned with success; and tendering you the thanks of both monkeys and their degenerate descendants man for having raised this important question, I remain, &c.,

New Monkey House, Zoological Gardens. Old Scratch.

Sir,—One of the best modes of destroying fleas left in a room by dogs is to add to a pailful of boiling water four ounces of ammonia. With a brush well wash the chinks and crevices, taking care to leave no part untouched. To kill fleas in dogs use the solution about half the strength as above, submerging the animal except the mouth and eyes, of course allowing the solution to get cool before using. Pool Field Davis.

### FEET OF OTTER HOUNDS.

Sir,—I should be very much obliged to any one who keeps otter hounds if he would have the kindness to examine the feet of two or three dogs, and compare them with respect to the membrane between the toes with some other dog of a named breed. It would be best to compare the feet with those of some other sort of hound. With some otter hounds the skin between the toes is certainly more largely developed than in the case of common dogs, and I am anxious to know whether this is the general rule. It should be stated to which part or joint of the toes the skin extends, and whether it is much hollowed out in the middle. I should be very grateful for information sent to me either by letter or through Land and Water.

Down, Bromley, Kent. Charles Darwin.

OTTER HOUNDS.—The Carlisle otter hounds have gone to kennel for the winter, after a most unpropitious season. What with the cattle plague in the early part of the year, and floods and continual swollen rivers, the secretary had a dull enough report for the members at their meeting the other day.

# Pentathlum.

## ATHLETICS.

### ATHLETIC SPORTS AT THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

THE beautiful and picturesque grounds of the military college at Sandhurst, have again, during the past week, been witness to the annual sports which take place at this season of the year. On Thursday and Friday last, days eagerly looked forward to by every Sandhurst cadet, everything passed off with complete success, the management being organised and carried out by a distinguished committee, under the more immediate superintendence of Lieutenant de L. Anderson (2nd Queen's), to whom all praise is due for his energy and exertions.

Favoured by exquisitely fine weather, after the dreary rains and gloomy days we have been accustomed to of late, and graced by a large and brilliant *cortége* of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, it is not too much to say that the "sporting" season of Sandhurst this year came fairly up to the standard. The following is a brief summary of the two days' proceedings:—

Thursday's "events," about eighteen in number, took place on the open green of the Royal Military College—the flat races being run on the gravel path with the winning post placed on the road leading to the staff college, on one side of which a temporary "grand stand" was erected throughout both days, well filled with visitors, imparting a gay aspect to the scene.

Throwing the Cricket Ball commenced the day's proceedings, 113 yards being thrown by Cunliffe (A Company) who carried off the prize. Flat Race of 1,200 yards, won easily by Isaac (A Company) in 3 min. 19 sec. 170 yards Hurdle Race, won by Slade (B Company) in 26½ sec. Flat Race 800 yards, a most exciting race, won by Howden (C Company) in 2 min. 1 sec. Wide Jump; 17 ft. 9 in. being accomplished by Messrs. Oakley and Drayton, each being awarded a prize. 170 Yards Hurdle Race, won in 25½ sec. by Pope (A Company). The St. Leger race, one mile; won in 4 min. 54 sec. by Isaac (A Company). 170 yards Hurdle Race, won by Maitland (C Company) in 26 sec. Flat Race; 1,200 yards won in 3 min. 39 sec. by Pearson (B Company). 170 Yards Hurdle Race, Rogers (A Company), being winner in 25½ sec. 800 Yards Steeple-chase, hurdles and wet ditches, won by Battye (A Company) in 2 min. 52 sec. High Jump; Messrs. Campbell (B Company) and Cunliffe (A Company) tied at 5 ft., each being awarded a prize. 450 Yards Flat Race, heats; 1st heat, Fox (C Company) winning in 1 min. 2 sec. 2nd heat, Maitland (C Company) being the winner in 1 min. time. Flat Race, 1,200 yards (C Company); Churchill (C Company) winning a hard race in 3 min. 18 sec. High Jump with pole, open to all; Townshend being declared winner after accomplishing 8 ft. 10½ in. Three-legged Race open to all; a very exciting race, won in 13½ sec. by Messrs. Dalgetty and Drayton. 100 Yards Race for sergeants, won by Sergeant Steele, gymnastic instructor, in 12 sec. 880 Yards Steeple-chase over hurdles and water jumps, Battye being winner in 2 min. 54 sec.

Friday's proceedings opened with the final heat of the 440 Yards Race; won by Fox in 59 sec., after a hard contest. 130 Yards Race, in heavy marching order, Daubeny (A Company) being winner in 21 sec. 800 Yards Flat Race, open to A Company, Liebenwood; 2 min. 10 sec. 170 Yards Hurdle Race, open to B Company; Keighley won by 5 yards in 26½ sec. Putting Shot (27ft. 10in.) being accomplished by Barry (C Company). Two Mile Race, won in very good style by Isaac, in 11 min. 34 sec. 800 Yards Race, open to B Company, won by Keighley in 2 min. 4 sec. 170 Yards Hurdle Race, open to C Company, Fox being the winner in 26 sec. 100 Yards Spin, open to all, won finally by Fox in 11 sec. 170 Yards (Commission) Race, over twelve hurdles, won by Oakley in 26½ sec. Sack Race of 100 yards, Brown won easily out of twenty-four competitors. 800 Yards Steeplechase for a prize given by Sir G. Wetherall, G.C.B., R.H., and officers of the Royal Military College, won easily by Battye (A Company) in 2 min. 47 sec. 440 Yards Race for beaten runners of A Company, won by Drury easily in 1 min. 8 sec. Similar Race for C Company, won