

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS IN AUSTRALIA.

In the beginning of December last the Wallaloo and other districts of Victoria were visited by a plague of locusts, or rather grasshoppers. The amount of damage done was enormous; the farmers being driven to their wits' end as to what they should do with their stock until the summer is past, as grass as well as corn crops have disappeared before the advance of the clouds of insects. Hundreds of acres of crops have been eaten down to the ground, and hundreds of other acres partly destroyed. Reading & Sons in one day had 50 acres of crop, expected to yield 20 bushels to the acre, half destroyed, and 100 acres greatly damaged. In less than one week they had three selections of good grass leveled to the ground. S. Andrew had about 70 acres of wheat crop greatly damaged. During the time the reaper was cutting his oat crop the locusts ate more than half of it, and in a few days cleared his two selections of all grass. George Maunder had sixty acres of wheat badly injured, and his oat crop nearly eaten up. Two reapers could not cut down the crop fast enough to keep pace with the destruction of the pest. John Maunder had thirty acres of oats eaten up stalk and stump and his wheat crop was greatly injured. A. Main, T. Aldred, and several others have been great sufferers. The district looks like a barren waste.

On the Wallaloo Station there is not sufficient grass to feed the sheep. Fortunately, in some instances, the wheat crops are so far advanced that both stalk and grain were too hard for the pest to do much damage, any farther than eat off the low heads. Consequently, a few good crops are left standing, but these are few and far apart. Marnoo, Banyena, Cope Cope, Swanwater, Darkbonee, and other localities have suffered greatly. The locusts travel in companies about two miles wide, from two to three miles in length, and are from one to two inches thick upon the ground. They

are clearing everything before them at the rate of about three-quarters of a mile each day. Myriads of the insects have also visited the Great Western, where a number of young vines were destroyed. The old ones were not touched.—*Town and Country Journal*.

THREE RELATED BREEDS OF DOGS.

Formerly, hunting exhibitions were held in the park of the Rosenborg Castle at Copenhagen, and in connection with the first of these there was a show of

Bernard. The finest of this class have been bred for the last thirty or forty years on the Broholm estate, from which they are called Broholm dogs. In the neighborhood of Copenhagen these dogs are seen everywhere. It is, in fact, a national breed, and although all specimens are not of equal value or size or of the same color, still there is a certain common type which is unmistakable. As the Kennel Club of Copenhagen has made a point of preserving and improving the breed, and has officially established the race marks, a greater uniformity will probably be reached. It is to be hoped that the past of the race and its relationship to the mastiff will be made subjects of investigation, as opinions on these points have heretofore been very divergent.

A repetition of the official enumeration of the marks of the breed would fill too much space, and therefore we will limit ourselves to mentioning a few of their characteristics. The Danish dog is of the same height and strength and, ordinarily, also of the same shape as the mastiff, but he is not so heavily built, and reminds one more of a powerful hunting dog. His head is not so broad, his ears are comparatively small, set high and lie smooth, his forehead is smooth (not wrinkled like that of the mastiff), the bridge of the nose is slightly arched, and the lips do not hang so low; his eye has a good natured and intelligent expression,

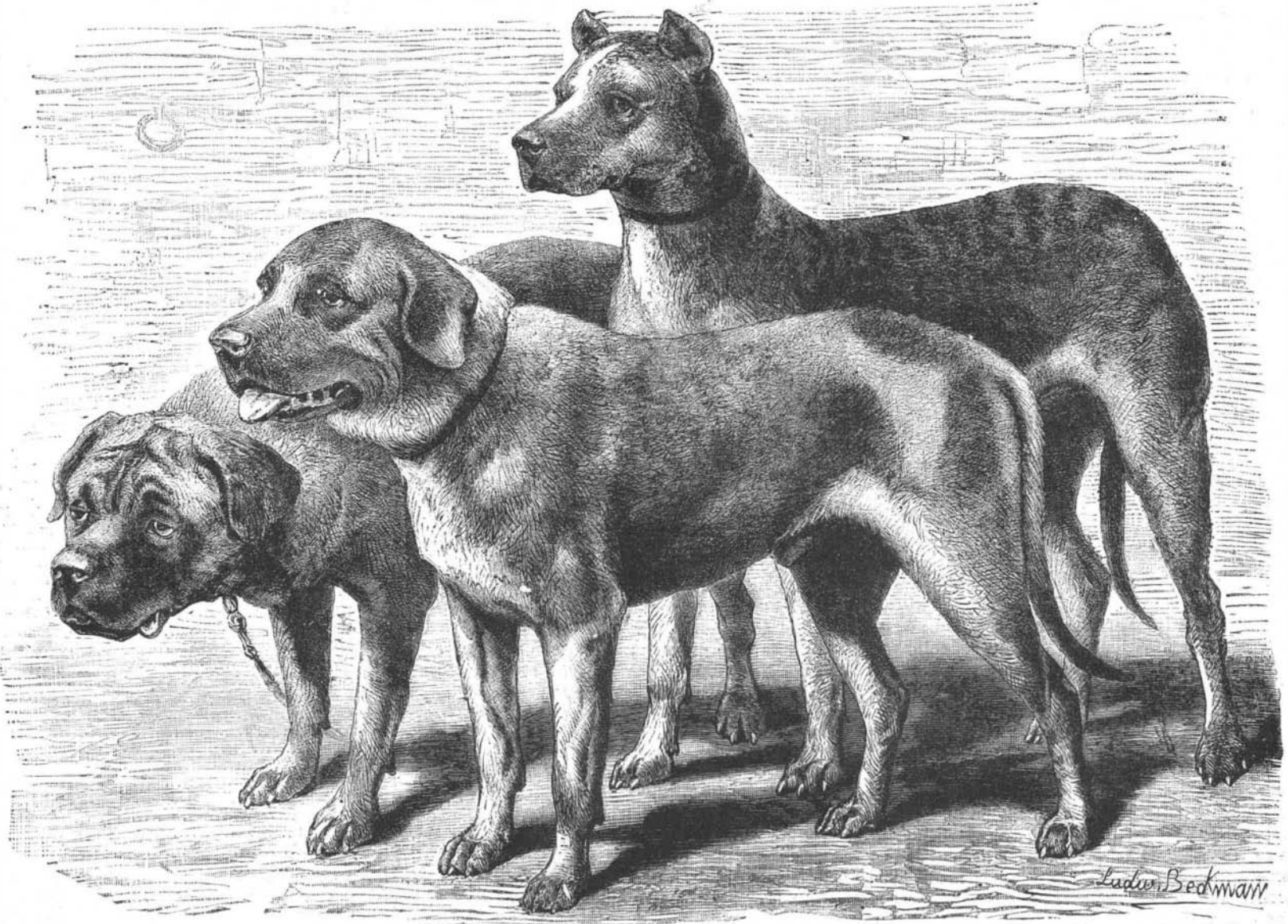
and shows no red at the corner. The color of the short, fine hair is reddish yellow (not ashy gray or dark brown, as is the mastiff's), and the muzzle and eyebrows are darker. Ordinarily, the Danish dog can run better than the pure mastiff, is not so heavy, is quicker and more active, and is highly commended as a companion and watchdog.

As is shown by the accompanying cut, the Danish or Broholm dog bears no resemblance to the German bulldog. The progenitors of the latter were carried from England and Ireland in great numbers in the



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dogs from all countries, which offered much that was new and interesting to lovers of these animals. In this way attention was called to the Danish dog, which does not resemble the German bulldog, but is undoubtedly a near relative of the English mastiff. It is difficult to decide whether there has been a cross here with the mastiff, or whether the Danish dog is simply a type of the heavy stag hound (*C. molossus*), from which, in the course of time, have come the English mastiff, the German bulldog, and, perhaps, also the progenitors of the present short haired St.



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