

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS.

Among the many reforms that were taken up throughout Germany soon after the close of the German campaign against France, we may count the efforts to obtain pure breeds of the German dogs. Many know of the good results of this work, the effect of which is more and more evident, but few realize the fact that the most useful of our dogs, the German shepherd dog, has received least consideration, and until lately was thrown far in the background by other German and foreign breeds. The reason for this remarkable neglect was the difficulty in determining the characteristics of the breed. At first it was supposed that there was only one breed of German shepherd dogs, but observation soon showed that there was a most confusing variety of dogs of this type, and many who were interested gave up the attempt to classify them. After investigation and comparison they were divided into three distinct breeds which had been crossed continuously. Thus the way out of the labyrinth was found, and these dogs were distinguished as first, the short, stiff-haired breed; second, the rough-coated breed; and third, the long-haired breed; and now the distinguishing features can be easily recognized from typical specimens. After a great deal of work the

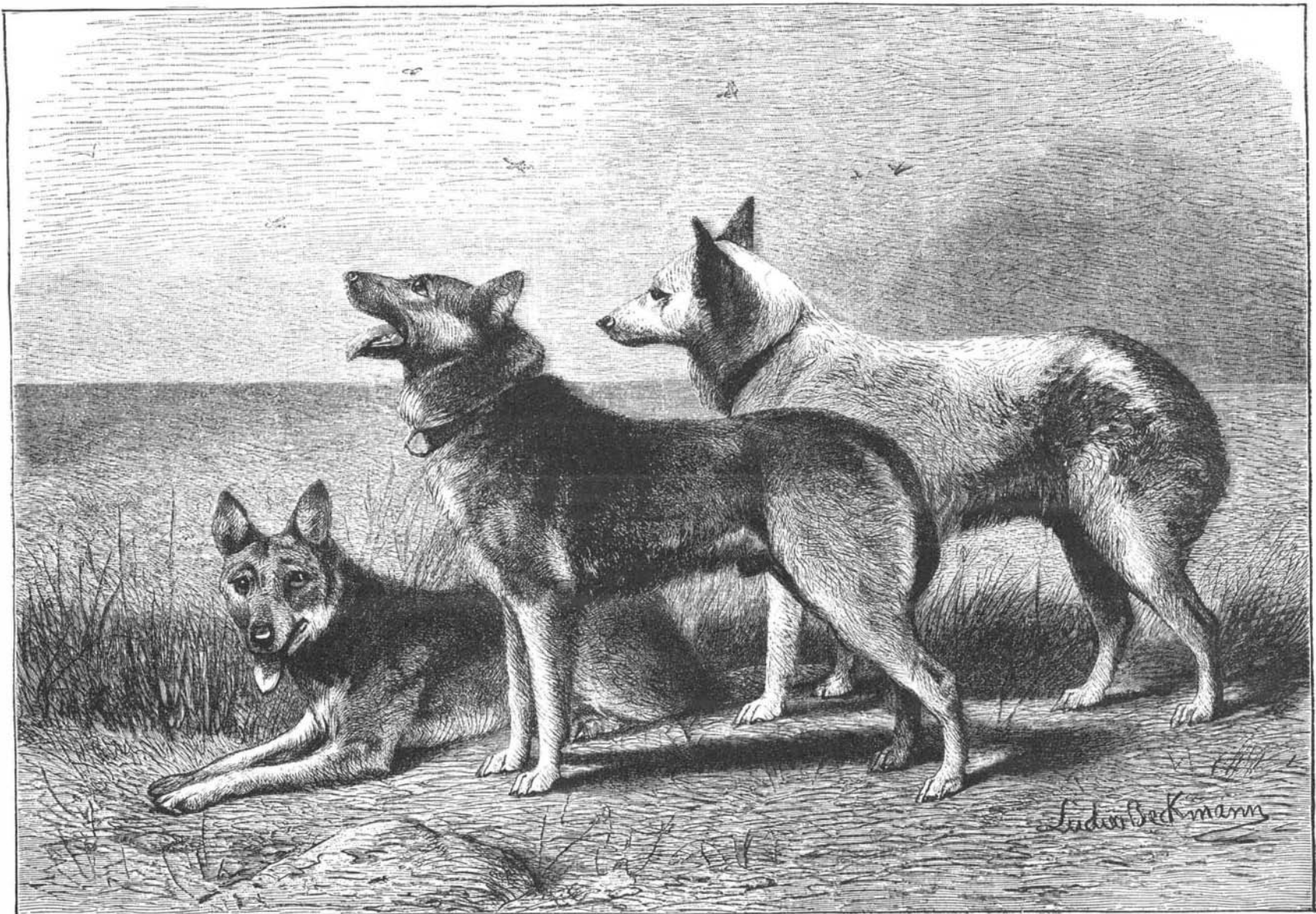
Machine for Asiatic Cotton.

A news item has been going the rounds of the press of an invention by a Southerner for ginning Asiatic cotton. The question has been put to us, says the Manufacturers' Gazette, why any particular kind of ginning or other machinery should be required for this growth of cotton different from that for the American upland varieties. In the first place we will state that the invention referred to is not a ginning machine, but simply one for separating the capsule or pod from the cotton and cleansing the latter. The machine receives in a hopper the capsule or full boll or pod just as it grows on the bush, and delivers the bolls on one side and the seed cotton on the other, practically free from all foreign matter and cleaned ready for the gin. The practical value of this machine has not been fully determined, but one has been sent to Central Asia to be tested near the cotton fields. But little can be said concerning it till these tests have been made. We have had some Asiatic cotton sent to us for examination that was cleansed by this machine, and afterward ginned, and certainly it appeared well for condition and grade (good middling).

The importance of a machine of this kind that will strip the capsule from the seed cotton will be appre-

Georgia Watermelons.

A writer in the Independent states that in Georgia watermelons are planted in hills fourteen feet apart, and from four to six melons are allowed to set on a vine. All these do not mature properly, so that a thousand marketable melons to the acre may be considered a large yield. These will make a carload if they are of average size—that is, weighing from twenty to twenty-five pounds each. Early in the season the grower may realize \$125 net for a carload at the point of shipment, but from this point the price runs down until they are sometimes sold out for the freight. Occasionally a grower will go into the refinements of cultivation and allow a vine to perfect only one fruit of some good variety, the others being removed as soon as they are set. Melons weighing sixty or seventy pounds have been grown in this way, and easily marketed at \$1.00 each, even when there was a glut of the commoner fruit. The melon most commonly sent North is the handsome variety known as Kolb's Gem, which is a good shipper, owing to its heavy rind, and it is of good quality. Of much finer grain and flavor is the variety known as Rattlesnake, a melon of great length in proportion to its girth at the waist, and curiously and irregularly striped and mottled. In Chattanooga

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commission discovered the marks of the different breeds and published them in the "Deutschen Hund-Stammbuch" (book giving the pedigrees of German dogs).

In 1891 a special club was started, chiefly by Count Cl. Hahn and Mr. Riechelmann, of Grossvahlberg, under the name of the Phylax Society, which gradually directed the work into the right channel. As the majority of the shepherd dogs are owned by shepherds, who, being simple and generally poor people, are satisfied with the usefulness of individual specimens and are seldom interested in securing pure breeds or in sending dogs to exhibitions, it cannot be expected that many of these dogs will be sent to the international exhibitions, and therefore the Phylax Society determined to connect itself directly with the agricultural associations, and an excellent opportunity for carrying out their purpose was offered by the eighth fair of the German Agricultural Association held at Berlin in June, the directors of which immediately granted the Phylax Society permission to hold a show of shepherd dogs at their fair and appropriated money for extra prizes for the dogs exhibited.

The brilliant success of this show of shepherd dogs promises well for all future exhibitions, and especially for those connected with the agricultural fairs.—Illustrirte Zeitung.

ciated when it is stated that the capsule of Asiatic cotton (*Gossypium herbaceum*) has much the appearance of a hickory nut, that it never bursts open like our cotton bolls, but simply cracks, making it exceedingly difficult to extract the cotton from it. The cost of harvesting cotton is thus greatly enhanced. All Asiatic indigenous cotton is alike in this respect, from Asia Minor to Japan. It is to reduce this cost of separation of capsule from the seed cotton and make it a factor of small consequence that this invention is intended to accomplish. Whether it will be yet to be seen.

Paper for Bank Notes.

A fine, transparent, open mesh fabric made of slender but strong threads is passed into paper pulp, made from the best raw materials, while such pulp is moving over the wire in its passage from the stuff vat to the couch rolls and before it reaches the latter. The fabric may be plain or with designs in it. In this state the fabric, lying flat upon the wire, is encompassed on all sides with pulp and passes through the couch rolls, whereupon an intimate combination takes place between and through the meshes of the fabric. It is claimed for the paper thus produced that it offers an absolute bar to imitation and falsification, and that it possesses a high degree of tenacity and durability.—Buttner and Will, Germany.

the name of a certain grower was found tagged to every Rattlesnake melon which he had sent, and in an overstocked market, with melons of the same variety selling for almost nothing, those labeled "Dean, Grower," were at once taken up by dealers and consumers at fair prices. There is an obvious moral to this little story. The Rattlesnake melon, having a thin rind, does not endure carriage to Northern markets, although it is largely grown in Georgia for home use. When care is taken in packing a car, however, and the bottom courses are laid in such a manner as to break joints and distribute the weight of the top courses, the crushing of the lower ones is measurably avoided, and melons with a tender shell will carry safely. Melons too small to market, or those which are specked or rotted from contact with the ground, are usually fed to the hogs.

Improved Alloy.

The alloy consists of nickel, 2 to 3 parts by weight, zinc, 10 to 14, and copper 83 to 88. The copper and nickel are melted together and the zinc afterward added. The alloy is manufactured into wire in the usual manner; and the object of the above composition is to diminish the liability to corrode in making endless wires for paper-making machines and other purposes.