

COMPETITION OF SHEPHERDS' DOGS AT ANGERVILLE.

The question of the improvement of the French shepherd's dog was raised two years ago, and, thanks to the initiative of M. Emmanuel Boulet, founder and presi-

A strong, cool breeze was blowing that made all the flags wave and the canvas of the tribunes flap. The weather was splendid and the sun hot.

The competition began. In the stock fold there was a large flock of sheep to be used for the occasion. Each

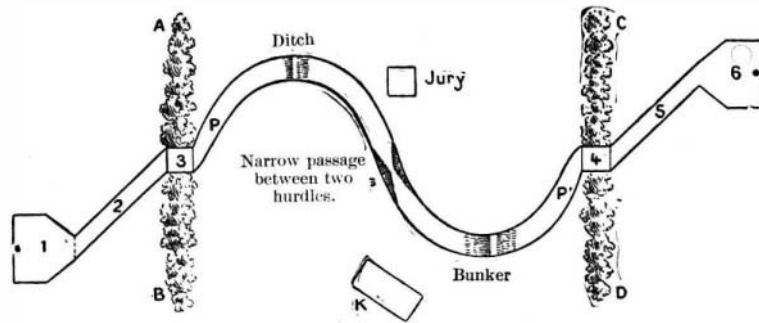
bolts, the course can be made flat or almost vertical, as may be desired. In addition to this advantage, a number of steam pipes run around the course, so that if used for out-door racing in winter time, by a circulation of steam or hot water all of the snow and ice on



BEAUCE DOG.



BRIE DOG.



1. Sheep Fold. 3. Starting Platform. 4. Platform at the Finish. 6. Receiving Fold. K, public tribunal; A B C D, lines of shrubs.

shepherd was to drive a flock of fifteen sheep from point 1 to point 6, without the dogs allowing the animals to stray from the road between the two furrows. The flock had to surmount obstacles, ascend embankments, redescend into ditches and pass between hedges that formed a narrow passage; and all this in close groups without any of them separating.

Incidents were not wanting. Out of the thirty-two dogs registered, very few led their sheep from one fold to the other without a hitch. Gallops in disorder across the field and between the legs of the spectators made the public merry. More than one shepherd, tired of the obstinate resistance of the sheep to obstacles, seized the leader of the flock from the lot, and, holding him firmly by the nape, dragged him over the embankment and thus made himself followed by the band of imbeciles. We more than once saw the history of Panurge renewed during the course of these tests.

The good dogs were the ones which, not becoming enervated, led their animals judiciously. They took a little more time for the operation, but prevented disorder in the ranks.

The good shepherd's dog should not seize the sheep by the rump, where a wound by his fangs might spoil a leg of mutton, the essential part in butchery, but rather by the nape.

After the tests in driving, the sheep were placed in

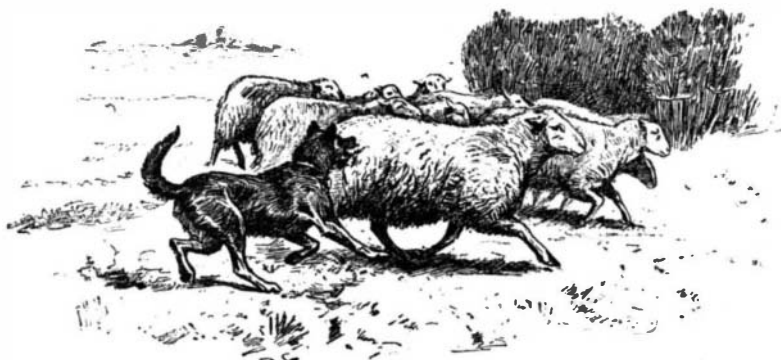
the track can be melted, and the track kept clear. Furthermore, the track can be taken down and put up whenever desired, and the same grounds can be used for other purposes.

The construction of the track is described as follows, says The Evening Post. The metal plates are first placed upon the ground, extending across the course of the track. These plates act as sills for carrying the weight of the track, and are placed at distances apart

dent of the French Shepherds' Dog Club, was made the order of the day. M. Boulet saw himself at once seconded by the sympathy of the minister of agriculture and supported by the entire agricultural press.

The club now has numerous adherents, and it is with pride that the shepherds and drovers say to you: "We are members of the club."

The dogs that are so useful for guarding and driving flocks were soon submitted to competition, not only



IMPROPER MANNER OF TURNING ASIDE A SHEEP.



PROPER MANNER OF TURNING ASIDE A SHEEP.

from the standpoint of breed and beauty, but also on the ground in the form of special tests.

The first races, if we may so express ourselves, took place with success in the vicinity of Chartres, last year. The result obtained led the club to organize the Angerville races, which were run on Sunday, May 30. In this land of Beauce, with its immense plains, shepherd's dogs are numerous, and the drovers also have their contingent of very stylish animals.

The train took us at ten minutes to nine to the Angerville station, where the Orphic Society of the place came with great pomp to meet M. Menault, inspector general of agriculture and mayor of Angerville, surrounded by the organizers of the contest, Messrs. Boulet, Tisserand, Sevrette, Bodmer, Masson and others.

In front of the mayor's office there was a drawing of numbers by lot, and the number of each dog was carried by the shepherd upon an armlet.

The animals presented were judged from the view point of beauty of breed, and then everyone went to breakfast. At half-past twelve a start was made from the mayor's office for the field of tests, two gendarmes, on horseback, heading the procession, followed by music with a banner at the head. Behind came the spectators and the contestants and the dogs, held by a leash by their masters. The plan of the track will give the aspect of the competition better than words.

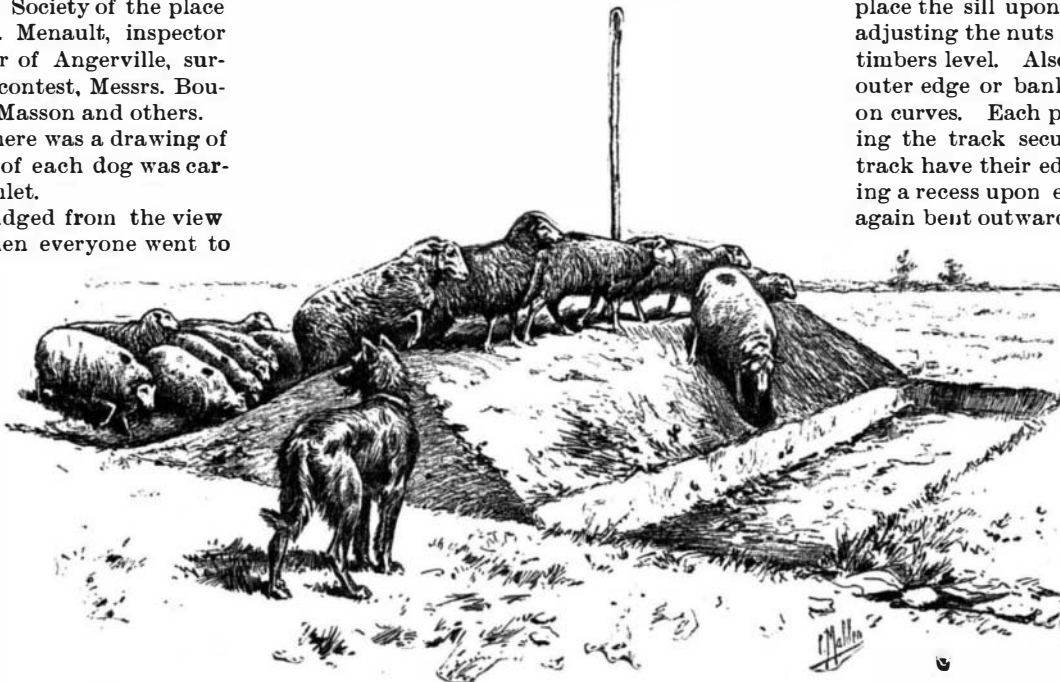
The path to be taken by the sheep was indicated upon the plain only by two furrows made by a plow and staked out by small poles here and there, provided with a tricolored pendant.

hurdles, for the competition in placing and separation of lots.—L'Illustration.

An Adjustable Bicycle Racing Track.

A resident of Newburg, N. Y., has devised what he styles an adjustable track. Portable would probably be a better word. It is composed of metal and wood, and has an arrangement for regulating the pitch of the banking to suit the speed requirements of the track. By means of the tightening or loosening of

along the course of the track equal to the length of the plates of which the sections are composed. These plates are formed with holes in their centers or notches extending from the edge to the center. The notches receive the vertical posts, which support the cross-timbers carrying the track. These posts have screw bolts, and can be adjusted so as to support the cross-timbers at greater or less elevation, and when necessary to raise one end further above the sill than the other. This form of construction makes it possible to place the sill upon sloping ground, and by properly adjusting the nuts upon the posts making the cross-timbers level. Also, in cases where it is necessary, the outer edge or banking of the tracks may be elevated on curves. Each post is driven into the ground, making the track secure, and the plates which form the track have their edges bent upward and inward, forming a recess upon each side. The edge of the plate is again bent outwardly, forming an outer recess, within which is placed the steam-pipe. Within the trough which is inside the trough formed by the upturned edges of the plates, vertical braces are placed at suitable intervals. This serves to stiffen the vertical portion of the plate and makes the track stronger than it otherwise would be. Provisions have been made for locking the devices at each end of the plates which are fastened to the cross-timbers. Upon the side of the cross-timbers are fixed two offset plates. The ends of these are slightly separated, and behind the offset portions form a recess receiving another plate.



THE PASSAGE OF AN EMBANKMENT.