

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.

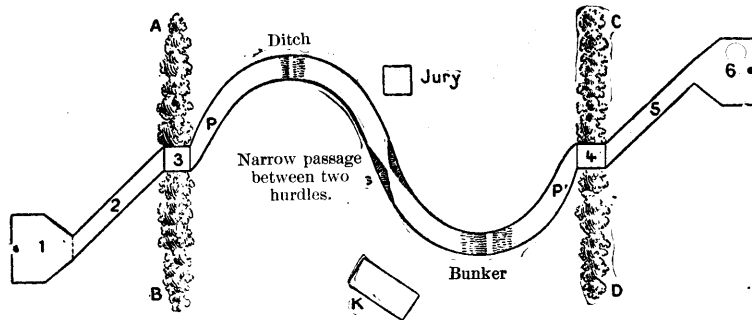
The competition began. In the stock fold there was a large flock of sheep to be used for the occasion. Each



BEAUCE DOG.



BRIAR 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, re-descend 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.

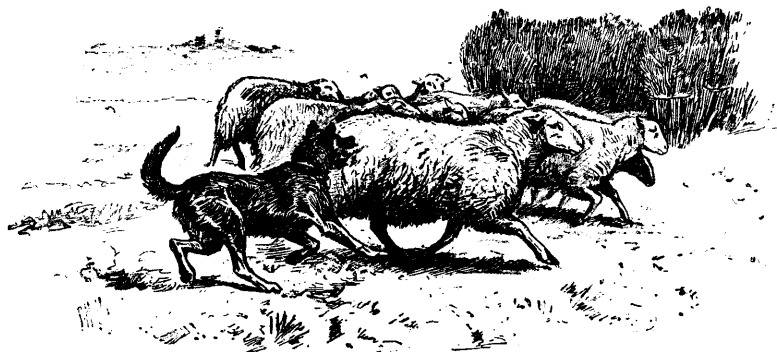
The good shepherd's dog should not seize the sheep by the rump, where a wound by his fangs might spoil a leg of mutton, the essential part in butchery, but rather by the nape.

After the tests in driving, the sheep were placed in

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.

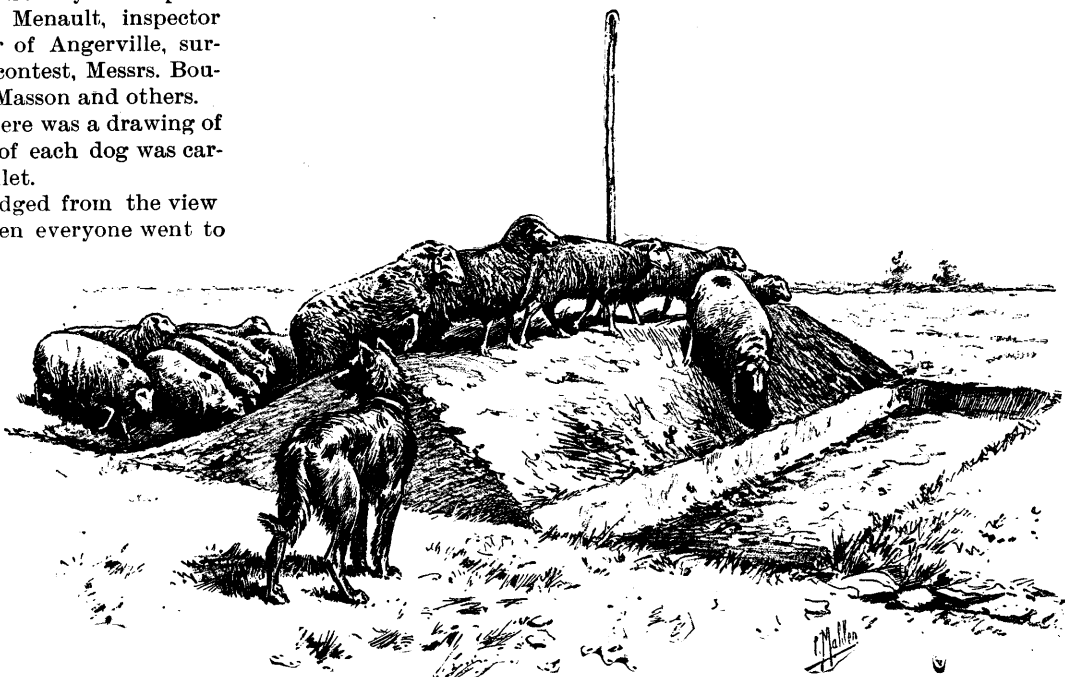
The train took us at ten minutes to nine to the Angerville station, where the Orphic Society of the place came with great pomp to meet M. Menault, inspector general of agriculture and mayor of Angerville, surrounded by the organizers of the contest, Messrs. Boulet, Tisserand, Sevrette, Bodmer, Masson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



THE PASSAGE OF AN EMBANKMENT.