

A Canine Centenarian.

PRINCE, AT 14½ YEARS OLD is still a lovely and affectionate black cocker spaniel dog. Although he is visibly ageing around the muzzle, and his once limpid, brown and adoring eyes are almost opaque and dulled; his gait slow and ponderous in order to support his now spreading chassis; his appetite has never aged nor grown blunt, but is still as keen and voracious as it was in the days of his puppyhood.

So too are his wonderful canine characteristics. In love and loyalty to his missus, he is a shining example of affection and steadfastness. His faithfulness and trusting fidelity are boundless and, on occasion, pathetic almost to tears; for on days when she goes out and must leave him at home, he sits on the front door steps in all weathers and awaits her return. Nothing will tempt him to relinquish his self-imposed watch, though he is patted, cajoled and begged to return to his warm and comfortable quarters.

For a dog, he has had a full life and made many friends in other parts of the world. Being a globe-trotter, he has sampled all forms of transport. He has travelled by air on



PRINCE

many an occasion and he has taken up first-class quarters on the R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth and the Mauretania. On arrival in New York in 1948 he walked straight into the hearts of the American Nurses he met, and he was treated as a visiting celebrity when it became known that he had lived through, and survived, the London Blitz.

He accepts all favours and gifts with an air of dignity and many tail wags, and he is quite accustomed to being the centre of attraction wherever he goes. His temperament is calm and unruffled and his gentleness is apparent to young and old alike. Everyone who knows Prince loves him, and he accepts all people as his friends and providers, and he never forgets those who have been good and kind to him.

Now that his streamlines have become well-filled bulges, he is not able to take his long daily walks, for his short legs can no longer support him. But he trots around the lawns and flower-beds and is able to sniff the fresh air. He is quite content to await the warmer days of spring and summer before trying to catch out unwary rabbits again.

We often wonder if he has his happy memories. For Prince has seen and sampled the beauties of Cornwall and Devon. He has swum in the crystal cool waters of the River Dart, and far out to sea off the Devon and Hampshire coasts. He has raced happily over the Derbyshire Dales and hunted out rabbits on moors and hillside. He has trod the Mountains of Mourne and galloped over the glorious Irish sandy beaches and he has chased squirrels in New York's Central Park. Prince, in his youth, was an ace of speed, with long black ears flying in the wind, always ready for new adventures and holidays in the country.

In his time, too, he has been a man about town! He has dined in many famous hotels and restaurants, and when in London has always shown a marked preference for taxis and limousines, whilst treating trips by bus with marked contempt and disdain. Oh, yes, Prince has definitely luxurious tastes and a wholesome dislike of utility meals and places.

In spite of his great age (he will be 15 years old on June 1st), his coat is still thick, black, shiny and curly. His intelligence is unimpaired and his sense of smell most acute. Daily, at 1 p.m., he is anxiously awaiting his midday meal, and greets its arrival with fast and furious tail-wags. Nothing is allowed to interfere with the serious business of gobbling up his dinner! He accepts little tit-bits later in the day as if he were starving!

He sleeps more often now. He is apologetic when too tired to go out for a trot, and he wags his tail feebly in appreciation when he is allowed to continue his naps.

Now that he is fully retired, he is greatly indulged and allowed to do just as he pleases. Even so, he takes no liberties and is quiet, affable and very grateful for little favours.

Dear Prince! He has promised to make a bid for immortality—so that his missus will never be lonely. He is being very successful so far, and, who knows, we may continue his biography in 1962!

Here's a health unto his (canine) Majesty, and may he live forever! He sends his canine good wishes to all readers of the British Journal of Nursing at home and in America.

G. M. H.

The Health Congress, 1952.

PLANS ARE ALMOST COMPLETE for the annual Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which is to take place at Margate from April 22nd to 25th next. There is every indication that the Congress will be well attended, and that among the delegates will be many from overseas.

For the first time there will be afternoon sessions as well as morning sessions. This will make it possible to avoid any overlap of meetings likely to attract delegates having the same interests.

The Congress will open on Tuesday morning, April 22nd, when the Rt. Hon. Lord Moran, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., will address the delegates. The following programmes have been arranged for the sections and conferences.

Section A., Preventive Medicine

Address by the President, Dr. Andrew Topping, T.D., Dean, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"The Contribution of the School Health Service to the Health of the People":

"Historical and Administrative Aspects," by Dr. Peter Henderson, Principal Medical Officer, Ministry of Education.

"Clinical and Practical Aspects," by Dr. A. V. Neale, Professor of Child Health, University of Bristol.

Section B., Engineering and Architecture

Address by the President, Anthony M. Chitty, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., President, Architectural Association.

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