

**THE HUNTING COUNTRIES OF
ENGLAND, THEIR FACILITIES,
CHARACTER, AND
REQUIREMENTS: A GUIDE TO
HUNTING MEN**

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The Hunting Countries of England, Their Facilities, Character, and Requirements: A Guide to Hunting Men by Brooksby

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A GUIDE TO HUNTING MEN.

By BROOKSBY.



LONDON: THE "FIELD" OFFICE, 346, STRAND, W.C.

1878.

268 . c . 523 .

The following table shows the results of the experiment. The first column is the number of trials, the second column is the number of correct responses, and the third column is the percentage of correct responses. The data shows that the percentage of correct responses increases as the number of trials increases, indicating that the subject is learning the task.

Trial	Correct	Percentage
1	0	0%
2	1	50%
3	2	66.67%
4	3	75%
5	4	80%
6	5	83.33%
7	6	85.71%
8	7	87.5%
9	8	88.89%
10	9	90%
11	10	90.91%
12	11	91.67%
13	12	92.31%
14	13	92.86%
15	14	93.33%
16	15	93.75%
17	16	94.12%
18	17	94.44%
19	18	94.74%
20	19	95%
21	20	95.24%
22	21	95.45%
23	22	95.65%
24	23	95.83%
25	24	96%
26	25	96.15%
27	26	96.3%
28	27	96.43%
29	28	96.55%
30	29	96.67%
31	30	96.77%
32	31	96.88%
33	32	96.97%
34	33	97.06%
35	34	97.14%
36	35	97.22%
37	36	97.3%
38	37	97.37%
39	38	97.44%
40	39	97.5%
41	40	97.56%
42	41	97.62%
43	42	97.67%
44	43	97.73%
45	44	97.78%
46	45	97.83%
47	46	97.87%
48	47	97.92%
49	48	97.96%
50	49	98%

The data shows that the subject is learning the task and reaching a high level of performance by the end of the experiment. The percentage of correct responses increases from 0% at trial 1 to 98% at trial 50.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
THE BELVOIR	5
THE SOUTH WOLD	18
THE BROCKLESBY	33
THE BURTON AND THE BLANKNEY	40
THE FITZWILLIAM	55
THE QUORN	65
THE COTTESMORE	91
THE PUCKERIDGE	107
THE OLD BERKELEY	114

2 *The Hunting Countries of England.*

individual, and his stud, will find themselves most at home.

Army men especially are often puzzled to fix upon the scene of their two or three months' sport. They would frequently prefer to vary their sphere of action; but as their term of leave is limited, they cannot afford the risk of disappointment in trying new ground. Often, too, their stud is weak in numbers; they wish to make the most of it, but do not care to throw their lot in where, if unable to hunt *every* day, they would find themselves left more or less in the lurch. For this reason they must follow the chase either within reach of their own neighbourhood and connections, or within reasonable distance of their Club and the resources of Town.

City men in the same way can seldom afford to devote themselves for long together to the more isolating phases of the sport. They are fain to divide their time, in such proportion as they may, between the two rival divinities whom they serve. The dusty shrine in Lombard-street has as strong a claim upon them as the sylvan grove of Faunus; and for each hour in the merry company of the goat-like deity they must devote two to the golden calf.

It has long been received as an apothegm, that when you are in London you are within reach of everywhere else; and so, in dealing with each country, it will be assumed that London is the base from which the inquirer intends to start. For the route thence to any point is a direct and easy one. To master cross-country travel by groping through the maze of Bradshaw and local map must be left to the

ingenuity of the explorer himself; and thus all allusions to the comparative accessibility of different hunting quarters is to be taken with regard to London as the starting point.

Stanford's Large Scale Railway and Station Maps will be taken as illustrating and fixing the topography of the work in question. These are coloured to show the divisions of England into hunts, and will be found as accurate as such frequently-shifting and often indefinite geography can well be. Being on a scale of three miles to an inch, they are of sufficient size to admit of all the principal points and features of a country being shown, and yet are not over-crowded with unnecessary names. They are in twenty-four sheets—each sheet being 28in. by 20in. The price of each sheet is—plain 1*s.*, mounted in case 2*s.* 6*d.*; coloured 1*s.* 6*d.*, in case 3*s.* The coloured ones, mounted in case, are much to be preferred for our purpose.

As we have inferred before, our object will be to sketch out a *menu*, from which men may choose as their appetite prompts.

It is not every one who enjoys the presence of a crowd, who loves the rush and scramble of three or four hundred people straggling for a start, or who even cares for the thrill of a dashing burst over the grass. Nor, again, is it every one to whom the sight of hounds picking their way over a cold fallow is a thing of joy, nor does every one appreciate the crash of a woodland or the blind plunge down a deep ride. Verily some men hunt to ride, some ride to hunt, and others, thank heaven, double their fun by doing both. *Chacun à son goût.* Let us try and show where

4 *The Hunting Countries of England.*

each of you can suit his taste, his weight, his nerves, his age and his purse—and yet not go into a barren land.

Most vital contingent and condition of all is the purse. Carry one you must, and always either have a coin in it or imagine you have. This done, its variations need have a less general and arbitrary effect upon your sport than would be imagined. If it be at a low ebb you cannot of course (honestly) buy as many horses as you might otherwise do; and you can't hunt as many days per week. In these ways the ill-filled purse has, it is impossible to deny, a most depressing and confining effect. But beyond these its influence is by no means as strongly felt as the other conditions enumerated—at all events in the main point under consideration—choice of country. If your taste, weight, age and nerves are right, go into a *good* country while you can—and with all confidence. Make yourself other pursuits there to fill up your interim time; or else, as discussed above, let your choice light within reach of your main occupation. Railways have brought good countries enough within reach of London: and almost every other great centre can boast of the same advantage. For, we would argue, a horse eats no more in a *good country* than in a bad one; hotel and stabling charges vary on quite other principles (we know not what) than those of locality; in *no* country are you likely to ride a worse horse if you can afford a better; the best saddlery is everywhere economy; and you ought to have (Why on earth *don't* you?) good leathers, decent boots coat and hat *wherever* you hunt.

THE BELVOIR.*

Our first sketch deals with what is undoubtedly a *good country* in every sense of the term; and one which, perhaps, of all others, admits of an individual enjoying and sharing in hunting of the highest class without necessarily binding him to great extravagance of either time or money. The magnificent Belvoir pack is open, on the one hand, to the Meltonian—with the extensive stud that is almost a *sine quâ non* to the residence in Melton—or is still more constantly and readily available to whoever may choose Grantham as his resting place. Grantham is a neat little town of about 5000 inhabitants, situate in the very midst of the Duke of Rutland's Hunt and replete with every convenience for the hunting man. It lies some six miles from the beautiful Castle of Belvoir, and consequently from the Kennels; while almost all the meets are within a radius of ten or a dozen miles. In two hours and thirty-five minutes from King's Cross the Great Northern Railway (according to Mr. Jorrocks, the best covert hack in England) will land you at Grantham; but unless you are hardy and vigorous enough to leave London at 5 a.m., you will find it more convenient to employ the iron horse to

* *Vide* Stanford's "Railway and Hunting Maps," sheet 10.