

A Cocker Spaniel Attacks a Giant Petrel

(*Macronectes giganteus*).

Mrs. A. Marie Bampton, of 29 Alexander Street, Largs Bay, S.A., was kind enough to supply the following particulars under date of 24th October, 1937:—"I am pleased to give you what information I can concerning the Giant Petrel seen at Victor Harbour. The bird was first noticed about four o'clock in the afternoon of 1st October, 1937, opposite the lawn-tennis courts, and close enough to the shore to be clearly seen. The cocker spaniel swam out, and the bird just waited for the dog, making no attempt to move, and violently attacked the dog, pecking at its head and forcing the dog under the water. The attack lasted about five minutes, I think, the dog yelping loudly, and we all thought it would be drowned, but it managed to get away; the bird followed for a short distance and then gave up the chase. The bird then paddled along until nearly to the Causeway and came very close to the shore, some youths having no difficulty in hitting it with stones. The bird seemed entirely fearless, and when hit would only flap its wings, and looked as if it would like to treat the youths the same way as the cocker spaniel. The bird must have stayed about an hour, then slowly swam out to sea, as far as we could observe. It made no attempt to fly. The sketch sent of the head was exactly like the bird, and the measurements, as far as I can judge, agreed with those of the bird seen, and I think it would weigh every bit of seven pounds, perhaps more."
