No extra forage was permitted to be given to these miserable animals and no adequate water supply was provided. Small wonder that at the end of seven or eight weeks the horses, mares, and mules began to die of starvation and thirst at the rate of from seventy to eighty a day, although at no time was there any horse-sickness in the camp. It is none too soon to suggest the extension of the Geneva Convention to animals in time of war.

BRAVE POOR THINGS.

The Guild of Brave Poor Things, of which the underlying idea is that there may be bravery in suffering as well as in action, recently held its annual competition and exhibition at the Bermondsey Settlement. After the opening by the Duchess of St. Albans, Dr. Kimmins announced that, thanks to the generosity of Lord Llangattock and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, a property of five acres, with a house in every way adapted for an invalid craft school, had been acquired at North Common, Chailey, Sussex.

A sum of £500 is still required to furnish and equip it thoroughly for technical and manual training, and to stock a small farmyard. The exhibits were judged by Professor Millis, of the Borough Polytechnic, and Miss Edna Walter, His Majesty's Inspector to the Board of Education, who comment in their report on the great improvement in the work done since last year, both in general style and commercial utility. Some of the bent-iron work was particularly good, and much skill and patience were shown in the needlework basket-making.

The work of the Guild is worthy of all support. It is interesting that a similar society was, about four years ago, founded in New York, as a branch of the work of the Children's Aid Society. Its inspirer was Miss May Darrach, who for some time occupied a bed in a hospital for cripples in the City of New York. Special schools have been started, to which the children are conveyed to and fro, and manual work is taught as in this country. There is a hospital ward in each school, and Miss Darrach is now studying medicine in order to devote herself the more effectively to the cripples for whom she has already done so much. There is hardly any branch of work which gives more satisfaction to the worker and happiness to those for whom the work is performed than this work for crippled children.

Medical Matters.

THE GERM OF SMALL-POX.

Professor Councilman, of Harvard, says he has found the small-pox germ. It is a protozoa, or the lowest form of animal life, which is responsible for the highly contagious character of the disease.

The protozoa differs from the bacillus, which is a vegetable organism; consequently the investigation of small-pox belongs to pathology rather than to bacteriology.

THE TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS BY INHALATION.

A paper read at the Medical Congress at Madrid by Dr. von Schrötter, the eminent professor at the University of Vienna, on a new method of treating the lungs by means of inhalation, is causing no little stir in the scientific world.

After adverting to the growing belief in the curability of tuberculosis and to the soundness of its treatment by inhalation, the eminent laryngologist, in his lecture, criticises the ordinary inhaling apparatus, which he points out has been shown to fail to carry the medicated liquid beyond, at most, the upper parts of the lungs, thus leaving the lower parts unaffected by the healing agent. He considers that the problem of reaching the whole of the lungs has been solved by the inhaling apparatus invented by Dr. Bulling. By this apparatus the therapeutic liquid is "atomised" so finely as to pass into the remotest parts of the lungs. The professor does not hesitate to declare that this apparatus is the only one in existence by which this result can be accomplished. The procedure is based on the use of compressed air, which is freed from both dust and germs by being passed through a filter of cotton wool. Then, highly compressed, the air passes on to a specially constructed "atomiser," which reduces the liquid for inhalation to quite small drops. But as they are still too large to enter the finer bronchial tubes, or the air cells, currents of compressed air are driven into the vapour that has been created, and this subdivides the drops again so minutely that their diameter is only 0·0006 millimetres, or about 300 times less than that of the ends of the bronchioles, the capillary tubes which open into clusters of air chambers.

previous page next page