

Four are in charge of Sanatoria (medical, surgical, children, and hydrotherapy).

A few days ago a request came for six Sisters to take charge of wards and theatres in the large Incurabili Hospital (1,050 beds), a request which we shall do our best to grant.

I shall be obliged if you will give this letter a place in your esteemed journal, and with thanks,

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

GRACE BAXTER, R.N.,

Matron of the Blue Cross School
for Nurses.

Ospedale Gesù e Maria, Naples.

[We publish Miss Baxter's letter with great pleasure. The professional nursing world is well aware of the splendid pioneer work which has developed in Italy under her supervision. In writing our review of the year—the international interest of which we are glad to note is increasingly recognised—we had no official information to hand of the work of the Blue Cross School at Naples. If our correspondents abroad will send us reports of their work towards the close of each year we shall have great pleasure in doing justice to them.—Ed.]

NURSE DETECTIVES.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to see your leading article on "professional confidence" this week. I was feeling very indignant about the "Nurse Detective," and turned to my Journal with eagerness to find what you had to say about it. I always feel sure that I shall find the right note struck there, and, sure enough, I found it on the first page.

Just imagine the indignation of a medical man if he were asked to act in the interests of a Criminal Investigation Department, whilst professing to treat a patient, and receiving fees for so doing! It is inconceivable. And the indignation of the nurse should be as great, and she should be equally, and I believe is equally, indignant that her uniform should be used as a disguise for an officer of the law. We are not censors of morals, but concerned in the restoration of the sick to health.

Surely the sick-room and the hospital ward should be cities of refuge, at whose entrance the trained nurse stands on guard. If necessary she knows how to protect her patient without assuming the rôle of detective.

Yours faithfully,

SUSAN MAYFIELD.

A YEAR'S PROGRESS IN ANIMAL PROTECTION.
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—The year which is past is noteworthy for the fact that in it two new laws for the better treatment of animals have been added to the Statute Book. Of these two laws on which the animals are to be congratulated, the first was an extension to Scotland of the Wild Animals in Captivity Act. This Act has worked well in England, and, though its provisions are now hardly up to public opinion, it considerably enlarged the sphere of protection. The second law known as the Diseases of Animals Act (2) aims at regulating the traffic in worn-out horses. This is a measure of first importance, ren-

dered necessary by the public condemnation of the cruel traffic in question, and is a distinct step in the right direction.

With reference to birds, we may congratulate ourselves on the decision of the Court of Appeal that it is illegal to have in possession any recently caught birds, who are protected in the district, though they may have been actually caught in an unprotected area. This is also a step forward, and almost the first one which deals a blow at the cruel practices of bird-catching and bird-caging. An unusual case, brought into court by the R.S.P.C.A., of blinding a song-bird with a red hot needle, which was punished by the extreme penalty of the law, also marks an advance in public opinion.

Outside the Law Courts the most striking feature of the year's work has been the progress made in the agitation for the better treatment of pit ponies. The question has become recognised by the Press and the public as an important one. Evidence has been taken from a number of witnesses by the Royal Commission on Mines, and we may reasonably hope that some steps will be taken to ameliorate the condition of the helpless sufferers.

On the whole, animal lovers have reason to be pleased with the work of the year, and every step gained gives us a better position for future advance. There is plenty still to do.

Faithfully yours,

ERNEST BELL.

Animals' Friend Society, York House,
Portugal Street, London.

Comments and Replies.

Hygiene, London.—(1) We have no doubt that during the three years' term of grace provided for after the passing of the Bill the qualification which you mention would be accepted by the General Nursing Council. (2) Write to the Secretary, National Health Society, 53, Berners Street, W.

Aspirant, Cardiff.—Journalists like nurses, musicians, and the workers in other callings and professions, must be born with an aptitude for the profession of their choice, but proficiency is only attained by training, hard work, and practice. We advise you to take every opportunity of practice that presents itself to you. Note the kind and length of articles published in various papers of standing, and submit articles to them.

Ignorant, Midlands.—The General Infirmary, Leeds, the Leicester Infirmary, and the General Hospital, Birmingham, all rank high as training schools for nurses. You would be fortunate to be accepted for training in any of them.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

Rules for competing for our Prize Competition will be found on page xii.

The remaining competition for January is:—

January 28th.—"Describe a Baby's Cries and what they indicate."

The answer of the competitor should be from 300 to 500 words in length.

Next week we shall announce the competitions for February.

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