

A NURSE'S HOBBY.

It is with great pleasure we are able to reproduce the model of a battleship, made by Miss J. Bridges, a member of the Nursing Profession, residing at Sevenoaks. The model, which measures nine feet, and is equipped with electric light, took fifteen years to complete, and now that it is finished, Miss Bridges hopes to exhibit it with the object of helping societies for animals.

The record which we print below is one of which not only Miss Bridges, but every member of the profession to which she belongs may be proud, demonstrating, as it does, genius, tenacity of purpose, and tender-heartedness extending beyond the human race to the animal creation.

Miss Bridges was trained and certificated at the Isleworth Hospital, and, while there, obtained the Massage Certificate of the I.S.T.M. At the conclusion of her training she took up private nursing until the outbreak of war, when she was appointed Sister-in-Charge of the V.A.D., Wilderness Hospital, Deal, Kent, and was awarded the Royal Red Cross.

She tells us that she commenced building her model of the battleship during the time of waiting between private cases. She had no clear idea as to whether she would be able to finish it, knowing nothing of ships when she began upon it, but she "won" because she was interested in the work. Then she visited the Royal Naval Museum at Greenwich, when she took as her pattern the model of H.M.S. *Russel*. During the war the Admiralty would not permit Miss Bridges to visit Greenwich, so she had to be content, when working on off-duty time, to copy the hull, on which she was then working, from the photographs in her possession, and

by magnifying photographs of our own naval losses which appeared from time to time in the daily papers. From these she was able to gather much detail. It took Miss Bridges twelve months to put the model together after she had made all the sections. She tells us that her reason for showing it in aid of animal societies is because, during the time she has been private nursing, it has been impossible to help comparing the difference between the sick person and the sick animal, and she very

soon came to the conclusion that the animal suffered very much more.

The sick person is, she says, waited on hand and foot, and every pain, as far as possible, relieved, whereas a dog, when it falls sick, is usually turned out into a cold shed or kennel, just at the very time when it needs most care, with no one to look after it at night. She has often seen this kind of thing when private nursing, and it made her wonder if we required a war to teach human beings the true meaning of the word suffering.

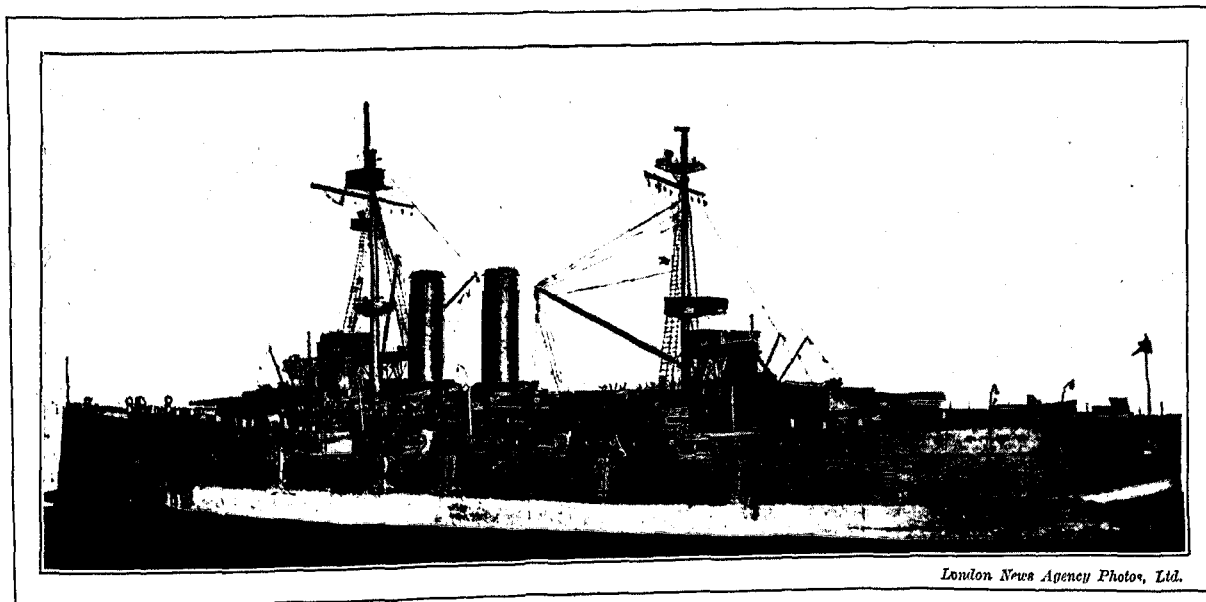
This is why she calls her ship H.M.S. *Hopeful*, because she is always hoping that it will help to relieve suffering animals. As soon as she can get her model to London, Miss Bridges hopes to collect for the Red House Dogs' Home, Hammersmith, and for many other societies which have applied to her for help.



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MISS J. BRIDGES.

We hear golden opinions of the Westminster Hospital which, thanks to the liberality of its friends, and, especially, of Sir Harry Mallaby Deeley, was recently opened free from any debt on the re-construction, which cost £70,000. We wish for it much support and prosperity in the new era upon which it has now entered.



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Model of Battleship made by Miss J. Bridges, a Trained Nurse, in her spare time during the last fifteen years.

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