

# Hospital Devoted Exclusively to Animals

London's New Institution  
Which Treats Only the Dumb Crea-  
tures of the Poor.  
Free Aid to Useful Animals and  
Medical Assistance for Pets.

DOG WITH WOODEN LEGS



A GREAT BLOCK OF BUILDINGS HAS JUST BEEN OPENED IN LONDON WHERE ANIMALS AND PETS OF THE POOR ONLY ARE ATTENDED. QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S VETERINARIAN IS IN CHARGE, BUT THE RICH ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE BENEFITS OF THE INSTITUTION. THE ANIMAL AMBULANCE, IS SHOWN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH.



DOG WITH WOODEN LEGS

AN OPERATION IN THE BIRD'S WARD. RESTORING FEATHERS TO PARROTS (OBJECT IN LARGE CAGES FEATHERLESS POLLY) MENDING BROKEN WINGS AND LEGS. ARE PART OF THE ROUTINE WORK IN ANIMAL HOSPITAL.



BY W. B. NORTHROP.  
LONDON'S animals now have a hospital all to themselves. It is the only institution of its kind in the world. Any London costermonger may bring his donkey to the Animal Hospital and have it attended to for nothing. Not only this. The Queen's own veterinary surgeon, as well as Professor Hobday and other famous practitioners, are at the command of the poorest of the poor. Though the hospital is directly under royal patronage and has among its directors Dukes, Countesses and other members of the nobility, the animals of the poor alone are treated.

It is no dainty, one-roomed establishment for the pampered pets of the rich, but a great building every section of which is given up to treating animals belonging to persons too poor to pay the fee of a veterinary surgeon.

The hospital itself occupies a great block of buildings in the heart of London's fashionable West End. It is in Hugh street, Belgrave road, not far from Victoria station.

Every day from 9 until 4 hundreds of the London poor bring their pets to the entrance of the great Animal Hospital. The rule of the hospital is never to turn away any animal in distress. Not only are dogs and horses treated, but all kinds of domestic pets such as white mice, cats, parrots, canaries, bullfinches, horses, donkeys, dogs—all of which receive the most expert treatment it is possible to give.

Animals are able to get in this wonderful establishment a degree of attention and skill which it would be impossible to obtain in private practice. In fact, it has been a somewhat difficult matter, since the hospital came into working order, to restrain the rich from taking advantage of the magnificent veterinary talent at the command of the institution. Occasionally, where any remarkable disease develops among animal patients belonging to the rich, an exception may be made for the mere sake of scientific research; but as a rule no matter how wealthy a person is—and even if he should be patron of the hospital—his animals are not received.

A recent exception, however, to the "poor man's rule" was made in the case of a bulldog belonging to the Earl of Yarmouth. This dog seemed to have some strange disease which several private veterinarians did not seem to be able to diagnose. Finally the Earl of Yarmouth himself took the dog in a cab from the Ritz Hotel to the Animal Hospital, and after he had pleaded for a long time with the secretary, Mr. Coke, it was decided to make an exception and admit the "rich patient." Had it not been, however, that the Yarmouth bulldog presented a peculiar medical problem he would not have been admitted.

### Human in Its Arrangements.

The arrangement of the Animal Hospital is almost an exact counterpart of that of any great hospital for human beings; making, of course, the necessary adaptations required by brute creation. For instance, the entire building is divided up into wards. As you enter the main doorway—under an imposing arch, above which is written the legend "Animal Hospital"—you are confronted by the entrances of several wards on the ground floor. There is a section of the Horses' Ward on the lower floor, for animals too seriously injured to ascend the inclined gangway leading to the second story. On the same floor with the Lower Horses' Ward are the Donkeys' Ward, the Dog Ward and the wards for cats.

As cats in London are almost a national institution, these members of the animal world receive a great deal of attention. Nearly every London household of the poorer class can at least support one cat; and some of them go in for sev-

eral. As it is well known that cats are quite susceptible to most of the diseases which afflict human beings, the Cat Ward in the Animal Hospital is always full to overflowing.

Most cats in the hospital are afflicted with ordinary curable diseases. The hospital does not make a practice of keeping animals which are hopelessly ill. For such creatures there is a well-organized "lethal chamber," which is calculated to deprive even cats of all their lives in a manner warranted painless.

When it is decided by the resident veterinarian that any animals, birds, or other pets left by their owners are not capable of being cured, the formal consent of the owners is always obtained before the introduction to the lethal chamber takes place. Not infrequently, ignorant owners of animals would rather have their pets alive under "any circumstances." In these cases the humanitarian principles of the hospital authorities intervene, and the animals are put out of their misery.

### Rheumatism in Donkeys Relieved.

As a rule, however, the Animal Hospital seldom has to advise destruction of animals brought within the care of the staff. Some marvelous cures have already been effected at the hospital, though it was only opened a few months ago. The lives of hundreds of dogs, cats, birds, mice and other pets have been saved, and now the poor are beginning to recognize the advantages held out to them by this unique institution.

Several costermongers—a large class of the London population, who control all street-vending—bring their donkeys every day to the Animal Hospital for treatment. Strange to say, many of these donkeys suffer from rheumatism, and this disease often brings about a stiffness in the joints which renders the animal quite useless for getting about the streets. A few weeks in the Donkeys' Ward at the hos-

pital literally puts the coster's "mate" on his feet again.

Speaking of cures which modern veterinary surgery is able to effect, some remarkable operations are performed nowadays. Quite a number of cats have been fitted with quite becoming glass eyes during the last few years, and several valuable dogs have received sets of false teeth.

### False Teeth for Dogs.

That these latter operations are not mere "faddy" excursions of surgeons in the field of experiment is attested by the fact that false teeth in old dogs have proved the means of extending the lives of the animals for many years. When dogs get old and their teeth fall, the animals are not able to properly masticate their food, and they become debilitated from not having the proper nourishment. Professor Hobday and other veterinarians have succeeded in fitting excellent sets of false teeth into the mouths of a number of dogs. Of course, the same methods of fitting teeth are adopted with dogs as those used with respect to human beings. Regular molds of the dog's mouth have to be taken and the teeth are fitted on plates, as usual. The conformation of the dog's mouth make it quite easy to fit good sets of teeth into it, and there are many dogs in London today that can boast sets of false teeth of which, from an artistic point of view, they should be very proud.

Another operation successfully carried out on dogs, cats and other animals today is trephining, or removing portions of bone from the skull. Not infrequently there are brought into the hospital dogs and other animals which have had the bones of the face or skull crushed. Ordinarily these animals would die in agony within a few hours. Such cases are taken at once to the animal hospital operating room, where every appliance of modern surgery is

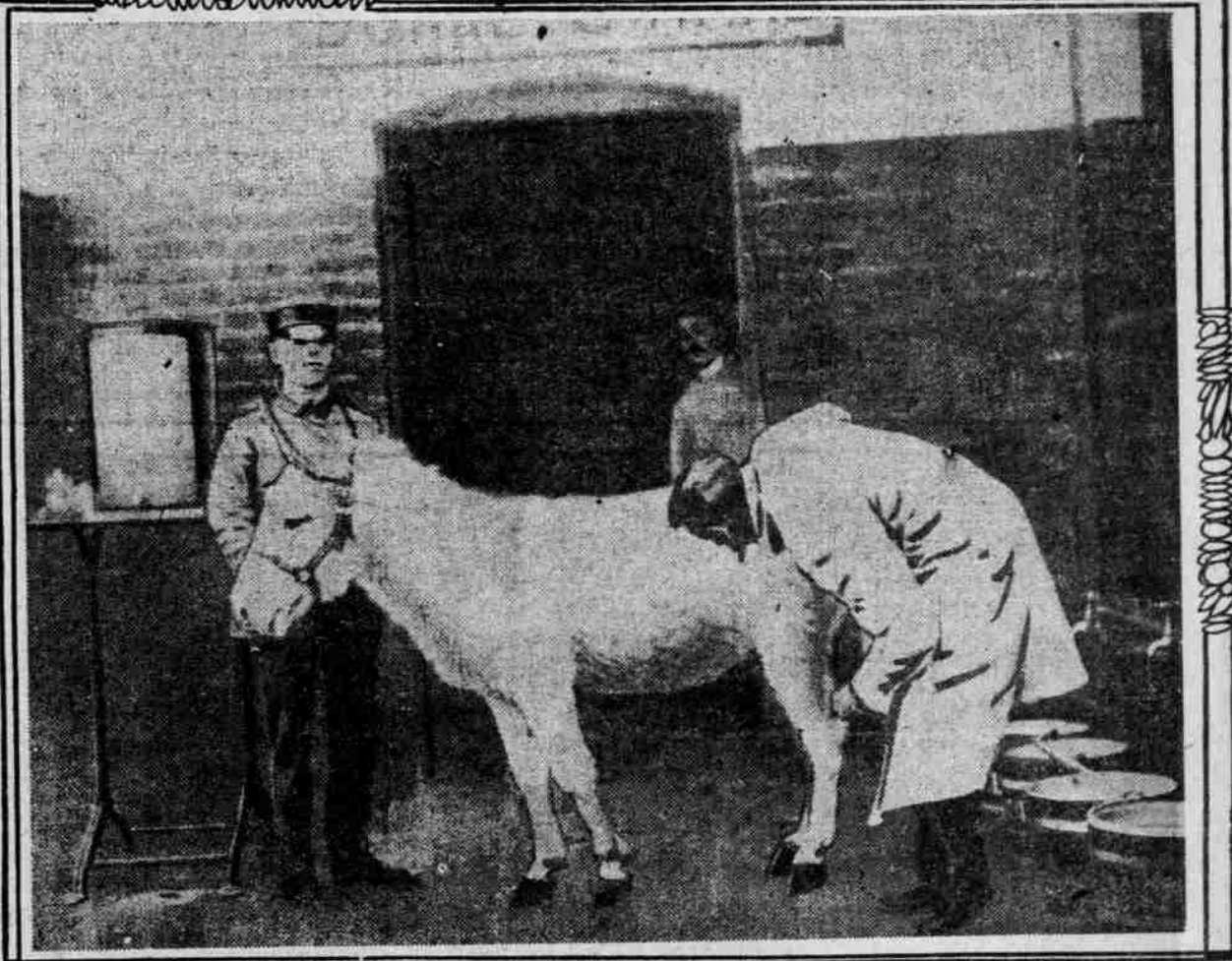
OPERATING ROOM FOR DOGS AND CATS. EVERY APPLIANCE OF MODERN SURGERY IS FOUND IN THE SURGERY AT THE HOSPITAL. ALL OPERATIONS ARE DONE UNDER ANESTHETICS AND EVERY HUMANE DEVICE KNOWN TO SCIENCE IS EMPLOYED.

to be found. A quick trephining operation by the resident surgeon, and the animal is soon on the road to recovery.

Not only are cases of accident attended in the hospital, but there is a department which goes in for animal beautifying. For instance, many dogs and cats are brought in which are suffering from facial and other deformities. Among bull-dogs, harlequin is very prevalent, as well as cleft palate. It is really wonderful to see some of these creatures "before" and "after" treatment.

### Artificial Limbs.

Not only is it quite feasible to supply dogs with false teeth, and cats with false eyes, but the substitution of artificial



SCENE IN DONKEY WARD—LONDON COSTERMONGERS BRING THEIR ANIMALS TO THE HOSPITAL WHENEVER THEY NEED MEDICAL OR SURGICAL AID. THE FINEST VETERINARY SURGEONS IN ENGLAND GIVE THEIR SERVICES FREE.

limbs for natural ones is an ordinary occurrence at the Animal Hospital. Quite a number of dogs, ranging from small fox terriers to Great Danes, are fitted out with artificial legs, most of these being composed of leather, and some light metal, such as aluminum.

It is rather curious that animals are often brought to the hospital with dislocated tails. There is a special form of treatment for this condition. In the case of dogs, the bones of the tail are set, and the tail is kept in a stiff splint until the dislocation is reduced.

As a matter of fact, every known surgical operation is performed at the Animal Hospital, from setting a dislocated tail to trephining a fractured skull. In the bird ward an equal amount of skill and attention is devoted to feathered

However, the matron of the hospital state that, in the course of a few weeks' treatment she would be able to restore Polly to his pristine glory. This restoration is being effected by daily sprays of antiseptic fluid, and also lotions to encourage a new growth of feathers.

Treating Pet Mice and Rats.

Among the favorite pets of the London poor are white mice and rats. There is a regular "rattery" so to speak, at the Animal Hospital. These creatures are allowed considerable freedom, when not injured too badly to get about, and their diseases often interest not only the veterinarians, but also many regular practitioners. Recently the Queen's veterinarian

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