to music, printing, wood carving, and brass and metal work, enable the visitor to compare still further the artistic capacities of the two nations. Other sections contain naval and military, and exhibits of guns, ship models, and military uniforms; while over to the right are the prettiest stalls and shops, the library, and several of the prettiest stalls and shops, including a number of very beautiful specimens of Dresden china. A large variety of international musical and athletic competitions will be held during the course of the summer in the great hall and grounds of the Palace; and a repertory theatre has been instituted in which German plays will be acted by and for visitors. The exhibition area will remain open until October, and should fulfill a useful purpose in making better known to each other and fostering a more complete sympathy between the people of England and Germany.

In 1877 the Staffordshire Institution for Nurses was established at Hartshill, near Stoke-on-Trent, mainly through the exertions of the late Bishop Sir Lovelace Stamer and Mr. W. D. Spanton, then surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary. The institution has done a great deal of good work, and recently it was arranged to establish a special nursing home for young patients. This home was opened a short time ago, and Mr. Spanton presided at the ceremony. He said that the home was intended solely for those who were unable to pay for a nursing bed in a hospital, or who were justly entitled to a similar one. The building is simply constructed, the objects being to secure an abundance of air, free ventilation, and plenty of light. The windows are large, and there is a comfortable sitting-room on the ground floor.

The institution has been so well managed that the new home had been built from reserve funds.

The annual report of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, presented to the Council on March 27th, contains a number of offences committed by children, as reported to the society in England, Ireland, and Wales in the year ending March 31st, 1913. The report states that the number of offences reported in the previous year was 13,946, being 899 more than in the previous year. The central fact of the report is that during the year the society acted as the protector of 159,407 children, a larger number than in any of the twenty-nine years of its existence, and 2,770 more than in 1911-12. The number of complaints was 54,541, being 353 more than in 1911-12. The complaints are classified as follows: Neglect and starvation, 47,689; ill-treatment and assault, 5,878; recent assault, 1,836; criminal assault, 1,673; immoral surroundings, 485 — making a total of 842 offences against morality: exposure for begging purposes, 575; exposure, 503; abandonment, 299; baby farming, 42; manslaughter, 1; other wrongs, 515. Of these 54,541 cases, 52,967, on a preliminary investigation, appeared to have substance in them; using the technical expression of the record, they were “found true.” It is pointed out that this does not mean that the other 1,565 complaints made were not justified. “In the majority of these there was good reason for making them, but there was no encouragement that made it unnecessary for the investigator to proceed.” Of the 54,541 complaints, 30,863 were made by members of the general public, 6,140 were reported by the police, 6,893 by school officials, 4,005 by other officials, while 3,952 were discovered by the society’s inspectors. Stress is laid on the fact that prosecution is not the main object of the society’s work. The cases brought to its notice amounting to 48,114 were dealt with as follows: Warned, 48,114; prosecuted, 2,456; otherwise dealt with, 2,397. The proportion of cases successfully dealt with by wire was larger than in any previous year. The report, although an unduly clear witness to the splendid work done by the society, is sad reading, as showing the amount of suffering inflicted on helpless children. In view of the statistics set before the society, the responsibility of the parents for the happiness of their offspring, which is given with emphasis, that “neither cruelty nor neglect of children can be described as a characteristic of the people as a whole.”

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**

**ENQUIRY.**

An enquiry, who has recently sent us two letters, is informed that answers cannot be returned unless the enquirer authenticates his communications with his name and address.

**PREMATURE CREMATION.**

Dr. G. Angus Hunt (London, N.) writes:—With reference to the leader in the JOURNAL for June 14th, may I ask—and, like Rosa Dartie, “I only ask for information”—if the doom of a premature burial is possible, why not the doom of a premature cremation? Personally, I should prefer even a momentary return to consciousness in a coffin underground rather than in a casket in the midst of a burning firey furnace.

“...We think that even Miss Rosa Dartie’s thirst for information would for once have been satisfied had she witnessed a cremation. Moreover, with the stringent precautions as to the certification of death when cremation is proposed, the doom of a premature cremation is almost unthinkable.”

**DOGS AND DOG OWNERS.**

Miss C. A. M. Bailey, Honorary Secretary National Canine Defence League, has issued an appeal to dog owners not to clip their dogs. We quote an extract from the letter which has dictated this appeal, but is not just a little swelling? An unclipped dog may have a taste for the calf of the human leg but we agree that dogs are often treated by their masters with great carelessness. As Miss Bailey says: “A dog chained out in the sun in hot weather, unable to reach the shade, his kennel, which has been left to face the sunny quarter, baked through and through, probably with no water to quench his burning thirst, or only a drop of stale, filthy, hot liquid, suffers torments.” But while condemning this inhumanity, we think that her unreserved demand, “Give dogs their freedom and do not chain them,” fails to take sufficiently into account possible danger to human beings.

**DIACLAYON OR DUTY: A CORRECTION.**

In the sixth line of Dr. W. Wrangham’s letter under this heading in last week’s JOURNAL (p. 1297), for “blood” read “lead.”

**SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.**

**LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS.**

**QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO SUBJECTS TO WHICH SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL ARE DEVOTED WILL BE FOUND UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE HEADINGS.**

**SUGGESTIONS.**

Suggestions are invited by “C.C.” as to the following cases: (1) A boy who, although only 12 years of age, and of average height, weighs 8 st. 7 lb., and is very rapidly tired. The condition seems to be remedied by a special company. (2) A case of rheumatism in the shoulders. Ionization has not been tried, but all remedies are useless.

**ANSWERS.**

**SONNAMBULISM.**

Dr. Alexander Haig (London, W.) writes in reply to “Aber,” JOURNAL, p. 1056: I would suggest that if he will measure the circulation by methods similar to those suggested in my paper, “Some Circulation Factors Admitting of Easy Measurement,” JOURNAL, November 16th, 1911, he will find considerable defects due in part to improper blood supply, and to heart weakness. If he can improve the circulation, the sonnambulism will disappear. I have tried to improve the circulation by methods similar to those suggested in my paper, and have obtained a good deal bearing on the question of the circulation to the limbless, headache, and epilepsy, in my book, Urie Acid in the Clinic, London, 1910, p. 3 and pp. 72 to 76.