

THE SAILORS' ZOO.

Well-Planned Menagerie On Whale Island.

Portsmouth, Oct. 1.

H.M.S. Excellent's private zoo, which is in need of a bear, is believed to be the only one maintained by a naval establishment in the world.

Certainly it is the largest and the best appointed. The Excellent's zoo grew out of the sailor's fondness for pets of all sorts, and the care he gives to their well-being.

From its inception in 1893, the whole cost of maintaining the Excellent's zoo has been borne by the officers and ship's company of this famous gunnery school. Not a penny of public money has been expended upon it.

The zoo overlooks the parade ground on Whale Island. For lions and other animals there are spacious iron cages, much like those of the Zoological Gardens. The marsupials have large grass paddocks to roam in; for the aquatic birds there are big ponds, and there are large aviaries for birds of other species.

The zoo was founded in 1893 with birds and animals brought home by H.M. ships on their return from foreign stations. Among its first carnivora was Amelia, a bear brought from Esquimalt and presented by H.M.S. Grafton in 1904.

A famous resident was Calliope Jack, a parrot which was aboard H.M.S. Calliope when she alone escaped from the great hurricane which wrecked all other warships in Samoa Harbour. For 30 years Jack lived happily in the zoo, dying there in 1919. For a long time, too, it contained one of the sledge dogs used by Capt. Scott, R.N., in his Antarctic expedition.

The bear pit was until recently inhabited by a Russian bear, and it is the death of this bear that has left the zoo in need of another. All possible care is taken of the animals and birds by the officers and ship's company of the Excellent, who regard them as pets, and provide them with spacious, clean, and healthy quarters.