

Letter to the Editor

MY DEAR MISS MACLEAN,—Your delightful letter of September was the greatest kind of pleasure ; it is so refreshing to feel the links of interest in mutual work with our members across these great seas. I do hope some day I can visit New Zealand, that wonderful country which many advanced thinkers in this one regard, as the most elevated of all in social justice. I hope the nurses will never forget to realise their great privileges in being citizens of such a country ; they should feel such a pride in its economic and social democracy, and rejoice in being able to take a part in its legislation for social betterment. If you could realise, for instance, the heart breaking struggle in this big, rich land to obtain shorter hours for working women ; more protection for children ; more consideration for the young. It is like pulling teeth to get the smallest crumb, and I feel sure that until women gain the ballot here we shall have nothing but a cruel rule of exploitation of the workers by the rich and powerful classes. I have been busy all this winter in helping to gather material, from German and French sources, on the evil results to health of overwork, long hours, premature toil, and all the things that any sensible, decent person ought to know ; whilst others are getting the same things from all English (language) sources, so that our National Consumers' League may make

another attempt in favour of legislative restriction of overwork. However, I sat down to write you of the coming International Council meeting next summer. How very delightful it would be if you could come.

You will, of course, have seen in the British Journal all the announcements and communications, so I need only urge upon you the great pleasure it would give us all to have some of the New Zealand sisterhood on hand. As you see, besides the business meetings there will be a Congress with varied papers and discussions, in which all will have equal share. I would be so glad if you would insert parts of this letter into KAI TIAKI, so that all the nurses may know that anyone who can come to England next summer, whether as a visitor, or as a representative of organisations, will be most warmly welcomed. We would like to hear at first-hand about your registration. We must bring up all the facts on this subject in order to help the English nurses in their great fight. But maybe they will have won it by next summer—I hope so. Hoping that we may see some of you, Believe me to be,

Always very sincerely yours,

LAVINIA L. DOCK,

Hon. Secretary.

27th December, 1903.

Nursing Notes

Infirmiry Nurses Learn Cooking

An interesting experiment has recently been inaugurated at the Hammersmith Infirmiry, Wormwood Scrubs. It appears that Miss Ward, Matron of the Infirmiry, considers cooking a very essential part of a nurse's training, and has been devoting a great deal of care and attention to the matter with regard to her own nurses. At first she had intended including special cookery classes in her own lectures to nurses ; but hearing of the excellent teaching by the L.C.C., and other schools of cookery, decided it would be better for them to acquire their knowledge away from the infirmiry.

Therefore it has been arranged that 27 of the nurses go to cookery classes at two L.C.C. centres and the Camden Institute. As may be realised, by matrons especially, it was no easy matter to arrange these classes, and the work generally, so as to allow as many as 27 nurses to get away, although they are divided up into batches of five, seven and fifteen. One important point which facilitates matters in this respect, is the fact that all the nurses go in their evening off duty hours ; and, another important point, pay their own fees. Whilst, of course, it is quite obvious that the arrangement can be to the